



PROTESTS ROCK ISRAEL

Outrage over hostages **NP1**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

PROUDLY CALGARY SINCE 1883

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Safety, efficiency drive Deerfoot facelift

Upgrades to 'Alberta's busiest freeway' include road widening, new bridges

STEVEN WILHELM

With construction on Calgary's Deerfoot Trail well underway, it's hard to miss the hum of heavy vehicles and sight of shifted soil lately.

"Alberta's busiest freeway" is being bolstered with a plethora of improvements, which the province has previously said could reduce commute times as much as 22 per cent.

Expected to cost about \$615 million, the project includes rehabilitation of two bridges, the addition (or twinning) of seven

bridges, widening of roughly 40 kilometres of roadway, weaving traffic adjustments and several interchange reconfigurations.

Some parts of the project — such as additional lanes and ramps at 64th Avenue and McKnight Boulevard — are already open to traffic, while others are set to complete as far out as 2027.

Originally opened in 1971 and called Blackfoot Trail, the road was renamed in 1973 after Api-kai-ees, a Siksika (Blackfoot) long distance runner from the 1880s who went by the name Deerfoot.

According to Calgary Herald ar-

chives, the freeway was constructed in four phases — the first opened in 1971 stretching from Calgary's north boundary to 16th Avenue N.E.

A second stage was completed in 1975, which continued south to 17th Avenue S.E. The third stage, which reached Glenmore Trail, was completed in 1980.

Finished in 1982, the fourth segment ended at Highway 22X (now Stoney Trail).

The road became fully free-flowing by 2005, with the final removal of traffic lights.

Previously maintained and operated by the City of Calgary, the province took over Deerfoot Trail in 2000.

Over the years, traffic volumes have continued to increase. The

thoroughfare now sees more than 180,000 vehicles per day in some sections.

"(Deerfoot) is becoming more and more congested as the City of Calgary continues to grow, and Albertans need to be able to get where they need to go safely and efficiently," Transportation and Economic Corridors Minister Devin Dreeshen said after announcing funding for the project last year.

In 2019, the city gathered feedback on several preliminary proposals for improvements to traffic "choke points" along the corridor.

Elements of that study, which was completed late 2020, were used to identify areas along the corridor to be prioritized for improvement.

SEE DEERFOOT ON **A3**



Construction on Deerfoot Trail is expected to cost \$615 million and includes the widening of roughly 40 kilometres of roadway. **GAVIN YOUNG**

Gaudreau's grieving wife sends thanks to Calgary

WES GILBERTSON

Johnny Gaudreau's grieving wife, Meredith, is feeling the love from Calgary.

On Sunday night, she shared an image on Instagram of the memorial on the staircase outside the Saddledome, where Johnny had filled the seats — and the stat sheet — during his nine-season stint with the Calgary Flames.

The star hockey player was

killed last Thursday, along with his younger brother, Matthew, when both were struck by a suspected drunk driver while riding bicycles in Salem County, N.J.

"Thank you Calgary," Meredith wrote, adding a heart emoji before continuing, "this is amazing. But I'm not surprised. The best people ever."

Ever since news of the tragedy, fans have flocked to the Saddledome to pay their respects

to Johnny — at 31, he was still in the prime of his NHL career with the Columbus Blue Jackets and he leaves behind two young children — and to Matthew, who was 29.

The mourners have dropped off flowers, hockey sticks, homemade posters and condolence cards, and packages of Skittles, the sweet treat that Guy Gaudreau famously used to teach his eldest son to skate.

One of the candy bags includes a handwritten message to Johnny: "Thanks for representing Calgary so well!" Nearby, a young fan left a pair of tyke-sized hockey gloves marked with "#13, My HERO."

SEE BAUDREAU ON **A2**

SPORTS

PARALYMPICS

Fans taught how to cheer at 'silent' sports **NP8**

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News tips/information:
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Editor: Lorne Motley,
403-235-7546,
lmotley@postmedia.com
Deputy Editor: Monica
Zurowski, 403-235-7291,
mzurowski@
postmedia.com
City/Business News: Steve
Jenkinson, 403-235-7580,
sjenkinson@postmedia.com
Editorial: Michele Jarvie,
mjarvie@postmedia.com
Letters to the editor:
letters@calgaryherald.com
You (Arts & Life):
Michele Jarvie,
mjarvie@postmedia.com
Sports: Todd Saelhof,
tsaelhof@postmedia.com
Homes: Claire Young,
cyoung@postmedia.com

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WEATHER

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DARREN MAKOWICHUK

CALGARY SHOWS ITS PRIDE Thousands of people came out to march in the city's annual Pride Parade on Sunday.

Katie Gaudreau shares a tribute to 'the absolute best big brothers'

**Hockey players
Johnny, Matthew
killed on the eve
of her wedding**

WES GILBERTSON

Katie Gaudreau, the younger sister of two hockey players killed in an unthinkable tragedy, paid tribute in an Instagram post Monday.

Katie's brothers, Johnny and Matthew, were killed Thursday — on the eve of her wedding — by a suspected drunk driver.

Johnny, one of the NHL's biggest stars, and Matthew were riding bicycles in Salem County, N.J., when they were struck by a motorist who now faces several charges.

"To know these two was to love these two," Katie wrote. "There are absolutely no words I have to ex-



Katie Gaudreau posted an emotional tribute to brothers Matthew, left, and Johnny on Instagram on Monday.

INSTAGRAM/KEGAUDREAU13

press the bond my family shared. The entire world knows there would never have been a John without Matty or Matty without

John. The absolute best big brothers a little girl could have asked for. This will never be a goodbye post because I will never stop saying

your names and honouring you both. I'll take the best care of mom, dad, Kristen, Mer, Madeline and your babies."

Johnny, 31, and his wife, Meredith, have two kids, both under the age of two.

Matthew, 29, was eagerly awaiting the arrival of his first child, named Tripp, later this year.

His pregnant wife, Madeline, posted a touching tribute Sunday.

"It was always Matty & John," Madeline wrote on Instagram. "I can't even put into words the bond these two had and right now I don't have the strength. They were each other's biggest cheerleaders. Matt looked up to John in so many ways but the most important was the father he was to Noa & Johnny. I find extreme comfort knowing they are together, as they always were. I know they are still messing with each other up there and will continue to look over their families." wgilbertson@postmedia.com

Calgary 'will continue to be here' for Gaudreau family

GAUDREAU FROM A1

The memorial also features jerseys, hats, photos and countless bottles of purple Gatorade, the preferred drink of a fun-to-watch forward trio that featured Johnny and his close pals Sean Monahan and Elias Lindholm. That was, for a stretch, the Flames' top line.

There are also dozens of tear-jerking messages scrawled in sidewalk chalk.

There was a steady stream of fans — and tears — outside the Saddledome throughout the Labour Day long weekend. Several former teammates stopped by, with Flames goalie Dustin Wolf sharing a photo on his own Instagram account.

"I know there are no words that I can provide that will alleviate the suffering of losing both Johnny and Matthew," Flames general manager Craig Conroy wrote in a heartfelt letter released by the team Saturday afternoon. "There isn't a magic spell that will make us all feel better. But there is love that we can continue to share with the Gaudreaus that will play a part in helping them heal.

"The outpouring of social affection over the past 24 hours, helps. The organic vigil on the steps of the Saddledome, helps. And just as the Gaudreaus have shown us, being kind to one another, helps.

"To Johnny's wife Meredith and children Noa and Lil' Johnny, Jane

and Guy, sisters Katie and Kristen, and Matthew's wife Madeline, Calgary will continue to be here for you and will always welcome you with open arms and hearts."

There's no doubt the Flames will eventually announce a formal honour to Johnny Gaudreau, who racked up 210 goals and 609 points in 602 regular-season outings in Calgary's colours, and also scored a series-winning overtime goal in the first round of the 2022 Stanley Cup playoffs.

Be patient, as team staff will want to wait until an appropriate time to discuss potential tributes with this heartbroken family.

A popular possibility is to raise

his No. 13 jersey to the rafters, while one fan suggested on social media that when Scotia Place is completed, a portion of 13th Avenue S.W. near the new arena could become Gaudreau Way.

Whatever sort of gesture might be in the works, many have been circling back to a thank-you letter Johnny published via The Players Tribune after choosing to sign with the Blue Jackets as a free agent in the summer of 2022. He stressed that he "cherished" his time in the Stampede City, describing it as "a special place with great people."

"I hope the people of Calgary can remember me not only as a hockey player, but also as a good per-



Fans have flocked to the Saddledome to pay respects to Johnny and Matthew Gaudreau, leaving flowers, hockey sticks, posters, cards, jerseys and packages of Skittles on the arena's steps. DARREN MAKOWICHUK

son with good values," he wrote. "Thank you for supporting me over these years, and for making my family a part of yours. I feel so grateful to have been brought up in the Calgary Flames Organization."

A who's-who of superstar athletes — from LeBron James of the NBA's Los Angeles Lakers to Jalen Hurts of the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles and many of the NHL's top talents — have shared remembrances of the Gaudreaus, and that continued Monday with an Instagram post from hockey legend Jaromir Jagr.

Now 52 and still playing pro in Czechia, Jagr scored his final NHL goal on behalf of the Flames in 2017, with Johnny doing the dishing on that two-on-one rush. Jagr's online tribute included a replay of that tally.

"I honestly never thought I'd write a text like this to a post," Jagr wrote, according to a translation. "Yes, that was my last NHL goal. Yes, that was a pretty nice goal. Yes, it was a beautiful pass above all. Unfortunately, life can sometimes be incredibly cruel. Thank you Johnny Gaudreau for being there and giving hope to all the guys with your incredible performances, that though they are not the biggest and toughest, they can succeed at the NHL world class just like you did. My condolences to the whole family. RIP to you and your brother."

wgilbertson@postmedia.com

Reports of water misuse in city on the rise

Bylaw officers to 'follow up,' issue tickets where required

STEVEN WILHELM

Calgary water use continued a downward trend on the week-end, while reports of water misuse by businesses and residences climbed.

On Saturday, Calgarians used 475 million litres of water, which was lower than the 492 million used on Friday and 487 million Thursday.

Sunday's water use fell to 473 million L, according to data on the city's potable water demand dashboard Monday morning, still shy of the reduction goal after one week of heightened restrictions.

"We continue to trend in the right direction; thank you to all of you who are abiding by outdoor water restrictions and taking steps to save water indoors," Michael Thompson, Calgary's general manager of infrastructure services, said Monday afternoon.

Thompson reiterated on Monday that the fine for outdoor water use during Stage 4 restrictions is \$3,000. The city has received 576 reports of water misuse as of Monday, up from 398 on Sunday.

The city has received 576 reports of water misuse as of Monday, up from 398 on Sunday. Bylaw officers were working through the week-end to "follow up" on the complaints and issue tickets where required.

Thompson said that figure includes 427 homes and multi-family buildings (up from 275), and 88 businesses (up from 67). Officials have not said if any fines have been issued.

Typical water demand in September is around 600 million L per day and the city has set a target of a 25 per cent reduction, down to



Michael Thompson, Calgary's general manager of infrastructure services, said Monday that the fine for outdoor water use during Stage 4 restrictions is \$3,000. The city has received 576 reports of water misuse as of Monday, up from 398 on Sunday. GATIN TOURNOI/FILES

450 million L.

Last week, officials issued warnings that Calgary "will run out of water" if usage doesn't drop.

"If we do not reduce our water usage by 25 per cent and stay at that 450-million (litre) level, we will be in a lot of trouble — we will run out of water," Mayor Jyoti Gondek said last Tuesday.

"That means you will turn on your tap and nothing will come out, it will mean that firefighters cannot attend to emergencies without wondering whether the hydrant will turn on."

The city has not said how long

the water reduction target can be surpassed without causing issues.

Since the Bears paw south feeder main was brought off-line early last week for further repairs, crews have been working 24/7, including over the long weekend.

Thompson says that as of Monday, construction remains on schedule for the expected completion date of Sept. 23.

Work over the weekend focused on sites along 33rd Avenue N.W. and at Shouldice Park, where Thompson says construction is underway at all 12 repair segments.

"This means that we have now excavated more than 50 per cent of the pipe segments that need to be repaired," he said. "(Monday) also marks an important milestone in the repair as the crews will pour concrete around the first pipe segment to be repaired."

Installation of rebar is progressing on schedule, he says, and in the coming days the number of pipe segments to undergo concrete pouring will increase.

Construction at sites six through eight, along 16th Avenue N.W., is to begin on Thursday.

"To allow this work to proceed

quickly and safely, 16th Avenue will be closed from 46th Street to (the) Bowness Road interchange on Thursday, Sept. 5, with traffic being detoured onto Bowness Road."

Thompson said Bowness Road will be open fully in both directions, with "direct access" to 16th Avenue and businesses. He also noted the city has a traffic plan that will keep most business driveways open, allow for parking and provide clear direction for customers.

The next update from the city is scheduled for today at 2 p.m.

Changes to boost road capacity, address safety and traffic flow

DEERFOOT FROM A1

Because Deerfoot Trail is a provincial freeway, Alberta TEC is heading the project. Officials at TEC did not respond to multiple requests for comment from Postmedia.

Here are the areas along Deerfoot Trail undergoing improvements according to the province's website for the project, from north to south.

BEDDINGTON TRAIL AND 11TH STREET

Currently, the interchange at Beddington Trail and 11th Street N.E. doesn't allow drivers to get on northbound Deerfoot, or for travel between the two roads.

Once complete, 11th Street N.E. will connect to westbound Beddington Trail and northbound Deerfoot. Capacity will also be increased with the addition of a fourth lane in each direction from Beddington Trail to Airport Trail.

Reconfiguration of exit ramps at 64th Avenue N.E. from northbound Deerfoot was completed in 2023, along with an additional lane on northbound Deerfoot between McKnight Boulevard and 64th Avenue.

SIGNAL AND RAMP CONFIGURATION CHANGES AT MCKNIGHT BOULEVARD

The partial cloverleaf interchange at McKnight Boulevard N.E. is among those being reconfigured, with off-ramps from northbound Deerfoot onto the road being shifted further back.

"New and improved traffic signals" are to be installed at the northbound Deerfoot ramp onto eastbound McKnight, and a fourth continuous lane will be added in each direction from 32nd Avenue N.E. to Beddington Trail.

Weaving traffic from 16th Avenue onto northbound Deerfoot will see the flow adjusted with an "additional lane connecting the two ramps."

MORE LANES AT MEMORIAL DRIVE INTERCHANGE

An additional fourth lane will stretch from Memorial Drive to 32 Avenue N.E.



Construction is underway around the interchange of Deerfoot Trail, Anderson Road and Bow Bottom Trail S.W. BRENT CALVER

There are no modifications for the Memorial Drive interchange.

GLENMORE TRAIL INTERCHANGE ENHANCED, TWINNING BRIDGE

Typically a sea of red on any map application during morning and afternoon rush hours, improvements from Glenmore Trail all the way to Anderson Road and Bow Bottom Trail hope to address safety and traffic flow issues.

Large steel piles seen east of the existing bridge over Glenmore Trail are destined to be part of a new bridge, which will twin the structure and widen it by one lane in either direction (for three lanes either way over the bridge).

Once complete, the new bridge will "carry all northbound traffic and the existing bridge will carry all southbound traffic."

With a minimum of three continuous lanes in each direction, adjustments will also be made to the interchange at Glenmore Trail.

Loops on the southwest side of the interchange will be adjusted, capacity and "various" safety improvements will also be made to eastbound Glenmore at Deerfoot and southbound Deerfoot to Glenmore.

Access to westbound Glenmore from northbound Deerfoot will still require drivers to loop past the Calgary Auto Mall along Heritage Drive.

SOUTHLAND DRIVE, ANDERSON ROAD AND BOW

BOTTOM TRAIL

The current configuration moving on to northbound Deerfoot from Anderson and Bow Bottom to Southland involves a weave zone.

"Vehicles coming onto Deerfoot Trail from Anderson Road and Bow Bottom Trail use the same lane that vehicles leaving Deerfoot Trail use to access Southland Drive," reads the Deerfoot Trail Improvements web page.

Weaving motions on the northbound section will be eliminated, by reconfiguring roads and bridges in the area to "improve safety and traffic flow, and increase the capacity."

The off-ramp from northbound Deerfoot to Anderson and Bow Bottom will also receive an additional lane.

On southbound Deerfoot, the off-ramp to exit toward Anderson and Bow Bottom will be moved back — beneath the Southland interchange — eliminating weaving motions between those areas.

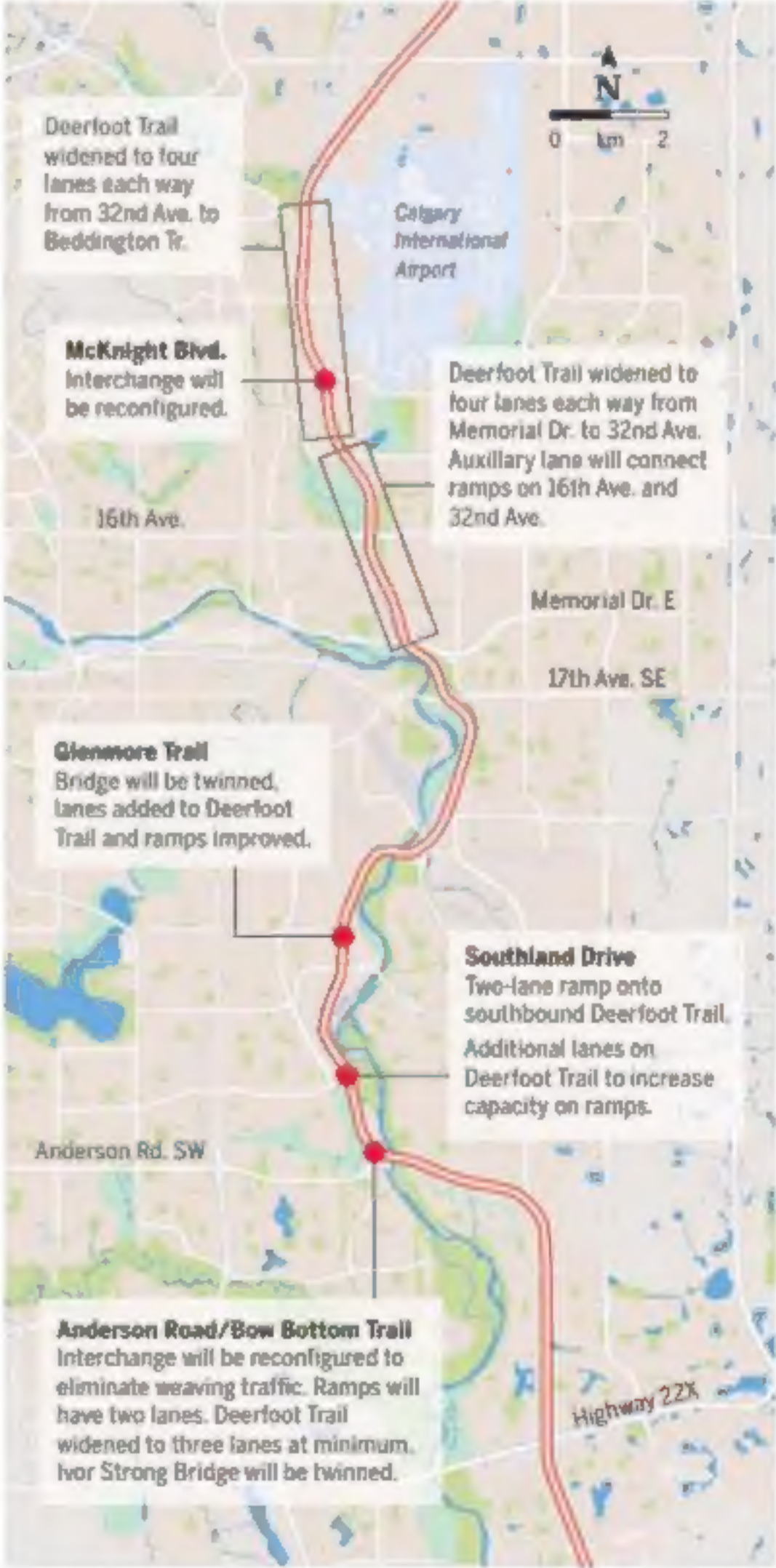
Eastbound Southland will be "reconfigured" to allow for two lane access onto southbound Deerfoot, and access toward Anderson and Bow Bottom.

As with other areas of the freeway, there will be a minimum three continuous lanes in each direction with a twinning of the Ivor Strong Bridge over the Bow River.

Several other bridges in the area are going to be demolished and reconstructed with different configurations, with crews taking a "phased" approach to ensure

DEERFOOT TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

Calgary's main north-south corridor is getting a facelift, with wider ramps, additional lanes and new bridges intended to improve traffic flow and safety.



SOURCE: CITY OF CALGARY DARREN FRANCEY / POSTMEDIA

access to Deerfoot is maintained.

The Southland Drive, Ivor Strong Bridge, Anderson Road and Bow Bottom Trail work began in August 2023.

"Work on improvements in these areas is extensive, and construction is anticipated to continue into 2027," read the site.

There is a mailing list for updates on the Deerfoot Trail Improvements web page, which Calgarians can sign up for.

With files from Darren Francey and Postmedia News swilhelm@postmedia.com

Premier criticizes 'left-wing' Senate nods

Alberta appointees will do whatever the Liberals tell them to, Smith says

MATT SCACE

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced on Saturday a pair of Albertans have been appointed to the Senate.

Announced via news release, Daryl Fridhandler, a corporate lawyer and former Liberal party board member, and Kristopher Wells, an educator and LGBTQ+ advocate, were appointed to fill two vacancies in the Senate.

The appointments have drawn criticism, largely from conservatives in Alberta and across Canada, who argue the choices are partisan picks.

Fridhandler is a longtime corporate lawyer in Calgary, has held several roles in the arts, business and politics sectors, and comes with a history of involvement in the federal Liberal party. According to his profile with Burnet, Duckworth and Palmer LLP, Fridhandler was campaign co-chair of Paul Martin and Michael Ignatieff's respective leadership campaigns for the Liberal party in the early 2000s, and was campaign chair for former Calgary mayor Dave Bronconnier over five municipal campaigns.

From 2011 to 2015 he was a member of the finance committee of the former Alberta Progressive Conservative party that dissolved in 2017 to form the now-governing United Conservative Party. He also worked on Gary Mar's 2011 PC leadership campaign, which eventual premier Alison Redford won by a slim margin.



Kristopher Wells, the founding director of the MacEwan Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity at MacEwan University, was appointed to the Senate Saturday by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. DAVID BLOOM

Fridhandler has also served as governor at Mount Royal University, chair of Alberta Ballet, governor of the Calgary Petroleum Club and sat on the Calgary police commission from 2008 to 2011.

Fridhandler hopes to be "a voice of civil discourse and take a little bit of the politics out of what's good for Alberta, and what's good for Canada relative to Alberta," he said in an interview with Postmedia.

"It's kind of a two-way street, that Canada benefits (from) Alberta and Alberta benefits from being in the federation," he said, describing

himself as a strong federalist.

Meanwhile, Wells, a lifelong Alberta resident, is a professor at MacEwan University in Edmonton, where he's the founding director of the MacEwan Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity.

His previous work included a role as diversity consultant for Edmonton Public Schools, crafting the first stand-alone sexual orientation and gender identity school board policy in Western Canada. He also taught at the University of Alberta and sits on several community organizations and boards dedicated

to the advancement of the LGBTQ+ community. Wells also co-founded Pride Tape, hockey tape in the colours of the Pride flag.

He has received the Alberta Centennial Medal, established to recognize outstanding Alberta citizens during the province's centennial, and the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal.

Premier Danielle Smith wrote in a post to X that "Albertans (sic) interests have once again been blatantly disregarded by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau," calling the appointees "left-wing partisans

who will do whatever he and the Liberals order them to."

Smith, along with Conservative MP for Battle River-Crowfoot Damien Kurek questioned why Alberta's elected senators were not tapped for the Senate. Alberta is the only province in Canada that votes for individuals it wishes to be selected for the Senate; the most recent Senate election happened in 2021.

Erika Barootes, Pam Davidson and Mykhailo Martyniuk — all of whom have ties to conservative politics provincially or federally — were elected in 2021, none of whom has been named to the Senate.

Fridhandler said the premier's comments were "completely off-side."

"She knows me and I hope that we could have good discussions and I would understand her concerns, and we could both do things that are good for Alberta," he said.

"She wants to play politics and that's her job."

Wells, an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community, has frequently come into conflict with Smith's proposed policies, particularly legislation expected to be

tabled this fall that the government has said will restrict hormone therapy for minors, require parental consent if students below age 15 wish to alter their pronouns, restrict transgender participation in sports and mandate an opt-in for sexual education.

In a post to X, Wells said he is "honoured and humbled" to be selected to serve in the Senate.

"I look forward to representing my province and country and to continue building an inclusive democracy that includes everyone," he wrote.

With files from The Canadian Press
mscace@postmedia.com
Twitter.com/mattscace67

Man dead after fight outside lounge

STEVEN WILHELM

A man is dead after an altercation outside a southeast Calgary hookah lounge early Monday.

Police responded around 5 a.m. to reports that "multiple individuals" were involved in a disturbance outside Portico Lounge, on 35th Street S.E. in the community of Southview.

Officers found evidence of an altercation and signs that someone may have been in medical distress on scene, according to a CPS news release issued Monday morning.

Police were notified shortly after that a man, who had been severely injured, was taken to the Peter Lougheed Centre.

"Sadly, the man has since succumbed to his injuries," said police.

Police say that although it's early in the investigation, officers believe the man was "likely injured" during the disturbance outside of the Portico Lounge.

Investigators are looking to iden-



Police examine a piece of evidence at the scene of an altercation near Portico Hookah Lounge on 35 Street S.E. on Monday. Police say a man who died in hospital a short time later was likely hurt in the disturbance. BRENT CALVER

cate a vehicle that was seen outside Portico Lounge around the time of the altercation.

"The vehicle is described as a black Dodge Caliber, with damage to the passenger side of the vehicle's rear end," a later news release said. "Anyone with information about the location of the vehicle or identity of its occupants is asked to contact police."

Ian Mackinnon works just down

the road from where the incident occurred. He also used to live nearby.

"It's unfortunately a reality that happens to be in this neighbourhood quite often," Mackinnon said. "It's actually really sad to think that this happens on a regular basis in this neighbourhood."

"We should be taking care of each other, especially during hard times like we are (in now) ... one

person should be helping other people out," he said.

Officers were searching for evidence at the scene on Monday, speaking with potential witnesses and canvassing the area for CCTV footage. Anyone with information regarding the incident can contact police at 403-266-1234 or submit tips anonymously through Crime Stoppers.

With files from Brent Calver

Grizzly bear attack leaves hunter with serious injuries

HINEN MANSUKHANI

A man suffered serious injuries after being attacked by a grizzly bear in Rocky View County on Sunday morning, the RCMP says.

Mounties received reports of a member of a group of hunters being attacked by a female grizzly bear, with her cubs, at 10:13 a.m., north of the intersection of Range Road 34 and Township Road 274.

No other people were harmed in the attack. An EMS spokesperson said the man was taken to Foothills Medical Centre with severe traumatic injuries.

The investigation is now being conducted by Alberta Fish and Wildlife.

The attack comes less than two months after the province announced the end of Alberta's 18-year moratorium on grizzly bear hunting.

The order says only bears without cubs can be hunted. It is unknown if the hunters were targeting the female grizzly responsible for the attack.

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TACKLING THE SHORTAGE OF SKILLED WORKERS

CCA teams up with schools to spark career interest in construction



DAVID PARKER
Around Town

The Calgary Construction Association traces its history back 80 years to 1944, when it was first known as the Calgary Business Exchange. It began as a central point where plans and bid documents for new buildings were made available, and contractors could submit their tenders.

The organization underwent a name change to CCA in 1965 and today serves the Calgary construction community through education programs, networking events, advocacy and access to business opportunities. Under the leadership of president and CEO Bill Black, it currently has a membership of more than 800.

It is celebrating its milestone anniversary by investing in the future of the construction industry, addressing one of the most critical challenges of our time: the skilled trades labour shortage.

Black recognizes that the trades have carried a certain stigma, particularly among some educators and parents who believe their child is destined for a successful career in a profession. Yet, mastering a trade can be financially rewarding, providing ample opportunities for advancement and ownership, as well as offering personal satisfaction in contributing to community building.

CCA is tackling the labour shortage with a couple of significant



Calgary Construction Association president and CEO Bill Black, left, director of workforce strategies Tammy Amstutz, and director of public affairs Frano Cavar help prepare the kits being provided to elementary schools involved in the Honour the Work program. *PUSHYBIX MEDIA GROUP*

nificant initiatives to shape our future workforce by promoting the trades through education programs.

In a bid to inspire today's youth to embrace careers in skilled trades, CCA, through its Education Fund, is collaborating with the Honour the Work program to introduce a skilled-trades curriculum supplement across 850 classrooms in Calgary's Catholic and public school districts. Aimed at students in grades 1 to 6, the program features STEAMS (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math, Skills) kits that connect classroom learning to real-world skilled trades careers through comprehensive lesson

plans, diverse children's books about trades and hands-on activities with welder's helmets, masonry trowels and even a doorbell to wire.

CCA members have been supportive of the program. Over four days, 60 volunteers filled all of the boxes being forwarded to the Calgary school boards.

Sparking interest in trades from an early age, the initiative is set to reach up to 30,000 students in its first year.

A second, far-reaching involvement is a CCA partnership with Telus Spark Science Centre and the Government of Alberta, with an investment into Spark's BLUprint Program. CCA is

making a \$100,000 investment into the program that will create exploration spaces at Telus Spark that engage students in hands-on activities related to carpentry, plumbing and electrical trades. By incorporating STEAMS education, BLUprint aims to ignite curiosity and passion for skilled trades among Calgary's youth.

Kids will have fun in a dedicated, physical area where they will be able to watch and help erect scaffolding, hammer nails into 2x4s, and mix mortar.

The program was launched July 31 and in the first two weeks it recorded more than 8,000 visitors, including kids as well as their parents and teachers,

helping them understand aspects of careers in the trades.

The need is great today. More than one in four job vacancies in the Calgary region are in the construction trades and related professions. Calgary is undergoing a tremendous surge in construction, particularly in home-building, and more migration into the city means rapid growth in residential construction will continue. As well, CCA expects 20,000 to 30,000 people working in the construction industry will retire over the next decade.

CCA is addressing the growing demand for tradespeople, introducing students at an early age to a career with job stability, on a financially rewarding path that doesn't begin with school debt.

HITEN

The Energizing Communities Collective received the 2024 Philanthropic Group of the Year at the recent Alberta Fundraising Professionals ceremony. Founded by Geri Greenall, COO of Cascade Trading, the collective represents more than 20 oil and gas companies that have united behind the shared goal of raising money to support Classroom Champions. In just two years, the collective has raised more than \$4 million that will significantly expand Classroom Champions' athlete mentorship programming and the social and emotional learning curriculum across Western Canada. It directly affects Classroom Champions' growth, including 87 schools, 380 teachers enrolled, 31 Indigenous communities signed up for customized programs, and almost 10,000 students participating.

The first philanthropic organization of its kind in Canada, the collective uniquely brings together a range of industry competitors in Calgary to support a charitable cause.

David Parker appears regularly in the Herald. Read his columns online at calgaryherald.com/business. He can be reached at 403-830-4622.

COMMUNITY

SPONSORED BY UNITED WAY OF CALGARY AND AREA

Calgary's charitable champions come together for United Way Month this September

United Way of Calgary and Area is taking over the city this fall to help Calgarians in need

KRISTA SYLVESTER
Postmedia Content Works

United Way of Calgary and Area is kicking off United Way Month by putting the spotlight on the power of collective action.

September's United Way Month sets the social impact organization's starting line for its four-month fall campaign – a time for Calgarians to come together to understand the need in our community and demonstrate their can-do spirit to create lasting change.

Among the city's most pressing challenges is the affordability crisis says Karen Young, president and CEO of United Way of Calgary and Area.

"The affordability crisis continues to put pressure on individuals, families and agencies," says Young, adding that one-in-four Calgarians can't meet their basic needs like food, shelter or clothing.

"This creates a ripple through every aspect of their life, including mental health and relationships. Issues that are affecting Calgarians now will persist long after the affordability crisis is over. But by digging in, by working together, we can make a big difference."



September is United Way Month, and there's no better time to kickstart your charitable giving. *SUPPLIED*

That's the power of United Way. It brings individuals and organizations together to address the needs that exist today and work together to find solutions for long-term change.

Here are a few ways the community can get involved this United Way Month and beyond.

BASIC NEEDS ROUND-UP

United Way's Basic Needs Round-Up is an opportunity for Calgarians to given back to the community in a tangible way. Through partnerships with connectFirst Credit Union, WINS and NextDoor, high-need essentials like diapers, grocery gift cards and hygiene items will be collected and distributed where they're most urgently needed. This ten-day collection drive

runs from Sept. 7 to 17. Calgarians can contribute at any connectFirst location between Sept. 7 - 16 or at United Way's Kickoff Event on Sept. 17.

CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

United Way's official Campaign Kickoff is Sept. 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Calgary Stampede Youth Campus. Everyone is welcome to join for food, entertainment, impactful speakers and more. United Way's agency partners will be onhand to answer questions, and attendees will see, firsthand, the important difference they can make through United Way this fall.

BECOME A CHANGE MAKER

Fall is a time when many work-

places launch their employee campaigns. In fact, more than 690 organizations from Calgary's corporate community joined with thousands of individual donors in 2023, supporting the work of 134 agencies across our city and surrounding area.

This year, United Way is asking people to take time to understand the need in the community and give back. One of the ways they can do this is by considering a gift to the Community Impact Fund.

"Giving to United Way's Community Impact Fund is one of the best ways for Calgarians to make a difference," Young says, adding the community's contributions are directly routed to where they are most critically needed.

Young is excited for what

United Way Month and this year's campaign will hold. "It's about creating long-term sustainable change that uplifts hundreds of thousands of people in our community."

GET INVOLVED

Other notable events during United Way Month include United Way's participation and sponsorship of the Calgary Pride Parade on Sept. 1, the Big Day of Caring on Sept. 5 – which is a way for smaller companies to kick off their campaigns – and Music Day in Canada on Sept. 28, which will see proceeds from shows at Rec Room locations across Canada donated to United Way.

Visit www.calgaryunitedway.org to learn how you can get involved.

OPINION

Smith declares her policies and plans to UCP insiders only

Premier seems to forget to govern for all Albertans



ROB BREAKENRIDGE

Election campaigns are underway in Alberta's two neighbouring provinces, but our premier seems to be just as locked into campaign mode as any of her B.C. or Saskatchewan counterparts.

Danielle Smith already contested a leadership race and a general election, so it would seem odd for her to be campaigning right now. This might also come as a surprise to most Albertans, who have seen little of the premier over recent months.

But Smith faces a leadership review vote this fall and is clearly going to great lengths to placate any concerns that UCP members have. Securing an emphatic vote of confidence in November is a priority. It was, as everyone recalls, a not-so-emphatic result that opened the door for Smith to even be in this position to begin with.

While UCP members might have greater leverage at the moment, the premier still has obligations as head of government to the rest of the province. That's especially true when it comes to policy decisions that could affect many or even most Albertans.

The campaign for a successful leadership review for a sitting premier is much different than a typical leadership race or general election. Unlike the hypothetical, "if I'm elected" promises, this campaign has featured much more definitive announcements of the "here's what we're going to do" variety.

But when it comes to changes in health care, taxes, spending and policing, Albertans shouldn't have to try to piece together belated accounts or leaks from private party events. If decisions have been made on significant new policy initiatives, the premier and cabinet ministers should be announcing them publicly to all Albertans.

Perhaps the most consequential of these announcements was made two weeks ago at a UCP event in Drayton Valley. Smith revealed to party faithful that her government plans on removing Alberta Health Services as the operator of some hospitals and replacing it with other organizations, such as Covenant Health. Smith cited the elements of "competition" and "fear" as to why this could improve health-care delivery.

It's still not been confirmed whether this is indeed the government's plan and, if so, how exactly it will all work. It's also ironic, since this plan echoes the vision for hospital management Smith laid out in a 2021 speech but then disavowed when that speech resurfaced during last year's election campaign.

This may now be disavowing that disavowal, but I suppose we can't rule out the possibility of another layer of disavowal here.

Regardless, this is the sort of decision that would normally be made via news release and news conference — the latter, of course, providing an opportunity to further question the details and intent of this plan. Buying a party membership shouldn't mean becoming a VIP to exclusive government policy announcements.

But it wasn't just this announcement about upheaval in hospital management. At that same UCP event in Drayton Valley, Smith announced that "we've also decided to create our own police force under the sheriffs." Again, this is new information that raises all sorts of questions about cost, duties and the future of contract policing in Alberta.

At a separate event in mid-August, Smith also revealed plans to create a committee to review government spending on a department-by-department basis, and find savings to allow the government to fulfil its promised income tax cut. Mind you, last week's quarterly update from the finance minister didn't touch on any of this.

Perhaps future UCP events, and whatever manages to leak out from those gatherings, will shed further light on just what the government has in store for us.

Or, perhaps, the premier and cabinet could simply get back to the business of governing and lay all of this out in detail for all Albertans. *Afternoons with Rob Breakenridge* airs weekdays from 12:30 to 3 p.m. on QR Calgary Radio. rob.breakenridge@carusent.com [Twitter.com/RobBreakenridge](https://twitter.com/RobBreakenridge)

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MONICA ZUROWSKI DEPUTY EDITOR

MICHELE JARVIS EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR

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WHY THEY PUT THE HALLOWEEN CANDY OUT SO EARLY



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Appalled' at brick decision

Re: Bricks to be nixed at Olympic Plaza; Age, condition of the 33,000 blocks makes moving them too costly, Aug. 28

I was appalled to learn that the sponsorship bricks in Olympic Plaza are to be destroyed. My mom, a volunteer and keen supporter in 1988, purchased bricks for each of her family members, with the understanding they would remain in place in perpetuity. Thirty-six years isn't even a lifetime.

This is an insult to her efforts and her memory. *Linda Anderson Stewart, Twin Butte*

\$20 worth nothing after 36 years

Seriously? A letter writer on Aug. 29 would like their brick back that they bought for \$19.88 in 1988. Tell me one other item that you believe you deserve returned that you bought for less than 20 bucks 36 years ago. *Rob Butler, Calgary*

Highway design a factor in safety

Re: National highway needs twinning, Aug. 23

The carnage and delays due to crashes on the Trans-Canada Highway through Yoho National Park can be expected to continue indefinitely.

A primary contributing factor for the collisions is that drivers go from four lanes to two lanes, whether they are travelling eastbound or westbound. The system of passing lanes that was installed in 1986 was expected to be replaced by four lanes when traffic volumes doubled. That was 33 years ago — the volume of traffic has tripled in that time.

Twinning through Banff has seen a fourfold reduction in collisions and an 80 per cent reduction in wildlife-vehicle collisions.

Assertions by some that simply driving speed limits and with greater attention will alleviate the problem are not really grounded in reality. *John Morrill, Calgary*

Who wields the power in this city?

A few words of advice for the residents who live near Glenmore Landing upset that the redevelopment plans for the southwest shopping plaza have been "quietly increased by the builder."

Developers in Calgary almost always get approval for

their applications to amend land-use bylaws to allow for higher density. Two tools that developers use to get around height and density restrictions and land-use bylaws are "bonusing" and "air rights."

Developers are well practised in the use of these tools and often apply them over strong objections from local residents affected by their development proposals.

This situation begs the question, "Why have land-use bylaws in the first place if developers are almost always able to use these work-arounds and exemptions?"

Patrick J Delaney, Calgary

It's time Quebec paid its share

According to the Fraser Institute, in the past 15 years Alberta has contributed \$244.6 billion to federalism through taxes and other payments after receiving some federal returns. Alberta paid more than five times that of B.C. and Ontario. I really don't know how to read the chart correctly, but all other provinces are in the red ink and, you guessed it, Quebec is \$327.7 billion in brilliant maple leaf fall colours.

So when does this money sponge of Quebec start contributing to Canada instead

of being an annual money pit that we in Alberta have to keep supporting?

One would think it is time they make it on their own. I am tired of my taxes and equalization payments keeping Quebec afloat.

Gord Peters, Chestermere

Albertans own our hospitals

Re: Premier threatens 'take back' of hospitals, Aug. 28

Take back from whom to give to whom? As far as I can understand, Albertans have paid for our hospitals with our taxes and they are ours. So when Premier Danielle Smith talks about taking back our hospitals, I simply don't understand what that means.

This government has already committed to building a private hospital in Airdrie at the same time as our public hospitals are barely able to function due to staff and money shortages.

The mission of this government is clearly to defund our hospitals and doctors so they can rationalize privatization.

As a firm believer in public health and education, I'm greatly concerned about the path this government is following. *Mary King, Calgary*

Young Canadians are seeking a brighter future

Oil and gas industry has a role to play in that goal, writes Tyson Riddell

A significant part of the future of Canada lies in the hands of the young Canadians at the starting lines of their adult lives and careers. Writing as part of that future generation, we need to make sure it's known that we believe the Canadian oil and gas industry is of vital importance to ensuring we leave the world in a better place than when we entered it.

It took a global pandemic, war between Russia and Ukraine, and a steep rise in inflation over the past few years for many to realize it, but we need an environmentally sustainable, economically competitive and secure supply of energy to allow for global prosperity. Canada arguably leads the world in all three of these important pillars. So as a young Canadian, I ask how are we to believe that a carbon tax and emissions cap will help Canada reach centre stage in the drive to lower global emissions?

Imposing such restrictions fails to see the big picture.

Canada's natural gas industry has an embarrassment of riches, of which we've only just scratched the surface. The issue is, thus far we've kept this resource largely to ourselves, a country with less than one per cent of the world's population. Decades ago, the energy industry recognized that natural gas, like oil, could be a globally marketed commodity. Canada is fortunate enough to have the scale and the proximity to develop and sell gas to the rest of the world through LNG. Better yet, we've had a multitude of investors ready and willing to make the multi-billion-dollar commitment to build the pipeline infrastructure and LNG facilities required to get our gas to the markets that demand it. Yet, to date, we have scared them off because we failed to see the bigger picture and positive effect natural gas could have on the world.

In the meantime, the U.S. has built nearly 15 Bcf per day of LNG export capacity, nearly Canada's entire daily gas production, and is set to double that by the end of this decade, while we have stood by and watched. If we don't build it, someone else will. Thankfully, our gas will finally have access to global markets through the startup of LNG Canada in the middle of this decade, but we need more.

The rest of the world needs the energy we can produce, and if we don't provide it they will find the next best way to get it. We will have lost the very effect on global emissions we are striving for in creating an emissions cap, as they turn to higher emission sources of energy such as coal.

Young Canadians need to push for our industry to be the source of energy to provide a better life for the world. Emissions and climate do not have borders, and we have done a poor job of seeing the big picture when coming up with policies that further restrict our industry from prospering. The world is growing and will need to get its energy from some-

where. If we don't provide it, they will go somewhere else and the effect on our world will be more pronounced than if it comes from Canada. And yes, we will also miss out on the wealth and tax revenue that this country seems to take for granted. This has been the story for Canadian LNG thus far.

We need the support of our country and our government to allow us to make this happen. The next generation of Canadians wants to make a difference by providing our environmentally sustainable, economically and responsibly produced natural gas to the places that demand it the most.

Let's hold the leaders of our country accountable to support us in our quest to provide the world with Canadian energy for decades to come.

Tyson Riddell is a field operations engineer with Paramount Resources Ltd. Watch for our ongoing series of informative commentary from Canadian business leaders on the first Tuesday of every month in the Calgary Herald and Financial Post.

“At the Fringe, as in life, what you get is uneven, and often random. Some shows are staggeringly good and some are awful.” **Liane Faulder**



The Edmonton International Fringe Festival is a “magical space,” says columnist Liane Faulder. The festival “has taught me a lot and not just about theatre, but about myself and what has come to matter to me,” she writes, adding that “in the 30 years I’ve been attending the festival ... my attitude to the spectacle has shifted considerably.” **IAN HUCERAK FILES**



LIANE FAULDER
Life in the 60s

ENJOYING LIFE ON THE FRINGE

Finding your happy place is important at any age

Everyone has a happy place — preferably two or three. For me, it's sinking into a hot bath with Epsom salts, reading a picture book with a grandchild on either side of me, and the Edmonton International Fringe Festival.

The festival, which wound up at the end of August, is the biggest and longest-running Fringe festival in North America. Launched in 1982, it has provided a platform for 43,000 artists to present their work over more than four decades. This year, there were 216 shows in 38 venues featuring 1,600 artists. The event sold 114,632 tickets in 2023, with \$1.2 million going into the pockets of artists. It's impressive.

But for me, the Fringe is more than a statistical boast. It's a magical space that has taught me a lot and not just about theatre, but about myself and what has come to matter to me. In the 30 years I've been attending the festival (the last 20 or so as a reviewer for the Edmonton

Journal, and once as a playwright and producer), my attitude to the spectacle has shifted considerably.

When I first started attending Fringe shows, I felt entitled to be entertained, and took it personally if that didn't happen. One show from my early years as an audience member was mostly about a young person who screamed in a blood-curdling fashion while pulling a plastic baby doll from their bottom. I wasn't just puzzled. I was apoplectic. Why? That there were no answers made it worse.

In those days, I was always keeping track, subtracting the bad shows from the good to come up with a score for the duration. Now, I am much less attached to outcomes and more mindful of the performers' intent. I am more open to difference (and to dance) and to learning. It's partly because I'm older, and I am making an effort to broaden rather than to narrow my perspective to avoid becoming the stereotype of a senior. But it's also because I am thinking harder about the journey. Both mine and that of the artists.

That's a valuable perspective, because at the Fringe, as in life, what you get is uneven, and often random. Some shows are staggeringly good and some are awful. Because the festival is non-juried, any performer who wins a slot in the annual lottery can appear in an approved venue. If anyone doubts the skill and talent required to be theatre professionals, they need only attend a show in which the performers are not.

Still, over time, I have come to understand that the festival is actually about more than the calibre of the productions, or even

wielding fire, shouts of laughter from the beer tent, artists pitching upcoming shows to passersby — it becomes clear that I am just one person in a big and varied world.

This realization is always a relief.

This year, the first show I saw was obviously an entirely new experience for the cast. One actor couldn't keep a straight face while delivering her lines. But the hour-long effort also featured a small band of enthusiastic musicians, and there was even a sing-along. Who among us cannot feel good about a sing-along? Later, I saw a one-woman show about a life-threatening illness that was both desperately sad, and yet so hopeful. I could not take my eyes from the stage and cried with sorrow and with joy.

Fringe festivals are like gambling. You peruse the program, blow on your dice and enter the theatre. A big win fuels the belief that you are somehow blessed. When you lose, you hope it's an anomaly, rub your lucky rabbit's foot and try again. But here's the difference between the Fringe and gambling.

When you're fringing, you are both the gambler and the house. And as you know, the house always wins.

For Postmedia News

What's that smell?

'Nose blindness' keeps us from smelling chronic bad breath, writes **Lindsey Bever**.

THE QUESTION:
Is it true that you can't smell your own breath?

THE SCIENCE:
TikTokers and others on social media call it nose blindness — when you smell an odour so often that you lose the ability to smell it at all, including your own breath in certain cases.

It's a temporary adaptation that enables us to block out smells — good or bad — that we're exposed to all the time, such as our deodorant or cologne.

We are surrounded by smells — dinner cooking on the stove, clean clothes tumbling in the dryer, the wet dog running through the house. Each odour consists of tiny molecules that we breathe

in through our nose, where they stimulate specialized nerve cells called olfactory sensory neurons.

These neurons then send that information to our brains, where they are interpreted as certain smells. But our sense of smell has evolved to be able to dampen this response when necessary.

If olfactory sensory neurons are being stimulated by a large concentration of an odour or an odour that lingers for a long period of time, the neurons become saturated, said Erich P. Voigt, chief of the division of general and sleep otolaryngology at New York University Langone Health. "They're no longer going to respond because it's not new or necessary information, and you need to be able to smell other odorants in the



Check for bad breath by blowing breath into your hand and taking a sniff, says Jennifer Douglas, a rhinologist and assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania. **GETTY IMAGES FILES**

environment," he said.

While most people should be able to smell new and temporary bad breath — such as breath caused by something they ate for lunch — over time, they are likely to lose the ability to smell chronic bad breath stemming from, say, medical issues such as dental disease, infections in the sinuses or tonsils, and gastrointestinal disorders that allow odours to rise up from the stomach, Voigt explained.

When the nose is given a break from an odour, allowing the olfactory sensory neurons and brain to recalibrate, the ability to smell it should return, said Jennifer Douglas, a rhinologist and assistant professor of otorhinolaryngology and head and neck surgery at the University of Pennsylvania.

Olfactory adaptation is different from smell disorders such as hyposmia, a diminished ability to smell, and anosmia, an inability to

smell at all.

WHAT ELSE YOU SHOULD KNOW:
People can smell their bad breath in two ways — when the odour flows through the back of the mouth and when it flows through the tip of the nose, which people can do by blowing their breath into their hand and taking a sniff, Douglas said.

In chronic cases, once people can no longer smell their breath but have reason to believe it may be bad, Voigt suggested confiding in a family member or close friend to give an honest assessment. If bad breath is confirmed, consult a dentist or a primary care physician who can assess it and treat it or, when needed, provide a referral to a specialist.

THE CONCLUSION:
In most cases, people should be able to smell new and temporary bad breath, but they will probably lose the ability to smell bad breath that becomes a chronic problem.

The Washington Post

Meet American Idol's 'kind' judge

Carrie Underwood will be honest on talent show

Carrie Underwood has vowed to be "kind" on American Idol.

The country singer has replaced Katy Perry as a judge on the ABC singing competition. And though the 41-year-old star — who shot to fame when she won the fourth season of American Idol in 2005 — has pledged to be "honest" with her feedback to the contestants, she doesn't want to crush their dreams.

Speaking during a surprise appearance at SiriusXM's Music Row Happy Hour in Las Vegas, she said: "I think I can be honest and constructive, but still kind. And I think that's the whole point, because people are coming in and it's dreams. You're part of somebody's story from that moment on."

Despite her country music background, Underwood believes her career has shown enough versatility over the years for her to be credible in commenting on many other genres.

She said: "I feel like I've been so blessed to obviously be so rooted in country music, but I've been able to be a part of many other genres or music as well."

"I mean, I've got a song with Papa Roach right now. It's a lot of fun."

"I like to think that I am versatile. And, hopefully, when I listen to people come and audition, I can have any lens I need to put on in terms of what music I'm thinking."

Fellow judge Lionel Richie recently praised Underwood as a "great" addition to the panel.

He told E! News: "It makes a lot of sense. It's not someone we have to get used to. And the fact that she



Carrie Underwood

has a great story, she came from American Idol.

"What a great judge, now we don't have to explain anymore, 'We know how you feel.' As artists, we know how you feel, but we've never been in that oval that says, American Idol. She's been there, done that."

Meanwhile, third panellist Luke Bryan joked Carrie will need to "up her therapist" as a result of working with them.

Asked what advice he has for Underwood, the 48-year-old star said in a TikTok video: "Up her therapist. If she has a therapist, she's probably going to have to double to deal with me and Lionel."

Bryan subsequently joked he was happy to assist his new co-star.

"Do therapists do gift cards where I can call her therapist and gift her a voucher?"

American Idol returns for its 23rd season in spring 2025 on ABC.

Bang Showbiz



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THE RINGS OF POWER IMPROVES IN ITS SECOND SEASON — BUT NOT ENOUGH

Series based on J.R.R. Tolkien's world continues to move slowly — very slowly

The Rings of Power Prime Video

LILI LOOFBOUROW

In its sophomore season, Prime Video's The Rings of Power will finally address the "rings" portion of the story it's ostensibly been telling.

Slowly.

Very, very slowly.

The fantasy epic will also, on a less fictional plane, try to correct the jagged course it has charted as one of the more singular (and expensive) case studies of the post-prestige TV era. The Rings of Power is widely believed to be the costliest TV series ever made, and the first season's budget reportedly ballooned to more than \$700 million.

At first, the experiment seemed to pay off, despite some rough plotting, the pilot boasted the biggest debut on record for Prime Video, with some 25 million viewers. But the audience dwindled: Only 37 per cent of viewers who started it actually completed the series. There are good reasons for this. The first season, set in what J.R.R. Tolkien dubbed the "Second Age," with Middle-earth recovering after Morgoth's defeat, was beautiful. It looked expensive, and it was relatively well-acted. But the final product was spectacularly uneven. More than a few plots aimed at moving the viewer seemed less tragic than painfully contrived. Most important, perhaps, the show's moral vision was mushy: Peppered with bids for theoretical nuance it seemed (in practice) to disown, the series felt less ethically complex than confused. And confusing.

Take the orcs. Or Uruks, as the fallen elf and villain Adar sensitively suggests they be called in season 1. When the show's Elven hero Galadriel (Morfydd Clark) articulates an explicitly genocidal desire to murder every last one of them in the first season, Adar suggests she might be infected by the very darkness she proposes to defeat. It's a potentially interesting (and aggressive) intervention. Galadriel's ugly phrasing is provocative. The moment seems calibrated to position her as the kind of morally grey protagonist we know from other prestigious prequels. Is Galadriel, in fact, an anti-hero? Or is this just conventional fantasy?

If Rings of Power has a fatal flaw, it's that it isn't actually invested in the substance of the question. The series repeatedly raises the issue of orcish "humanity" only to revert to a position functionally indistinguishable from Galadriel's.

It's dramatically awkward that Galadriel seems to usefully reflect on her own spiritual ugliness shortly after her

genocidal comment to Adar. In a conversation with Theo (Tyroe Muhafidin), a young villager who survived an orc attack, she chides him for voicing anti-orc sentiments that mirror her own.

Is this growth? It feels like a well-meaning character whose vengeful impulsivity has caused tremendous damage is finally taking stock and considering the larger picture.

Then she resumes badass orc-killing without any discernible ambivalence, and the camera cheers her on.

The second season handles these sorts of stepwise moral ascents and descents with a little more grace. This is Sauron's season, now that the villain has finally shed his disguise. Charlie Vickers effects so remarkable a transformation from Halbrand to Sauron that I found myself briefly thinking that he (like Adar, who is now played by Sam Hazeldine instead of Joseph Mawle) had been recast. The season also belongs to the famous Elven smith Celebrimbor (Charles Edwards). And Sophia Nomvete as Disa, Durin IV's wife.

The action picks up in the immediate aftermath of the season 1 finale, with Elrond (Robert Aramayo) racing to tell Elven High King Gil-Galad (Benjamin Walker) what he has deduced about Halbrand's true identity and Galadriel chasing him in an effort to retrieve the Elven rings. Their disagreement over whether the rings are safe to use, given their provenance, drives much of the season. Galadriel values the visions they offer. Elrond finds



Charlie Vickers stars as Sauron in The Rings of Power. The villain has shed his disguise, and this is his season to take the limelight. PRIME VIDEO

their guidance suspect; that Sauron wanted them made means they're part of his plan.

Scenes featuring the long lanky "Stranger" (or Istar, played by Daniel Weyman) and the Harfoots are improved now that he is able to speak (though a detour into a second Harfoot village feels a little like homework). The Khazad-dum plot, in which King Durin III is slowly corrupted by his ring, is genuinely affecting thanks to a number of textured, moving and humorous performances, even if it reprises beats we know from earlier instalments (and depends on Durin III and Durin IV switching sides, with Durin IV — who last season was the one pushing for riskier mining — now counselling prudence and caution).

But the show's use of the orcs baffles me even more in the second season, where the orcish question becomes not just urgent but pivotal. The new season contextualizes their place in this story by offering an extended flashback to Adar and Sauron's last onscreen encounter (with Slow Horses actor Jack Lowden playing Sauron). Adar leads the orcs in an uprising against the dark lord that appears to be motivated by the latter's indifference to orcish life.

Unfortunately, the show fails to flesh out their core disagreement. It is clear that the orcs believe Adar will be less brutal. But whatever Adar sees in them or says to them — or to Sauron — happens off-camera.

The Washington Post

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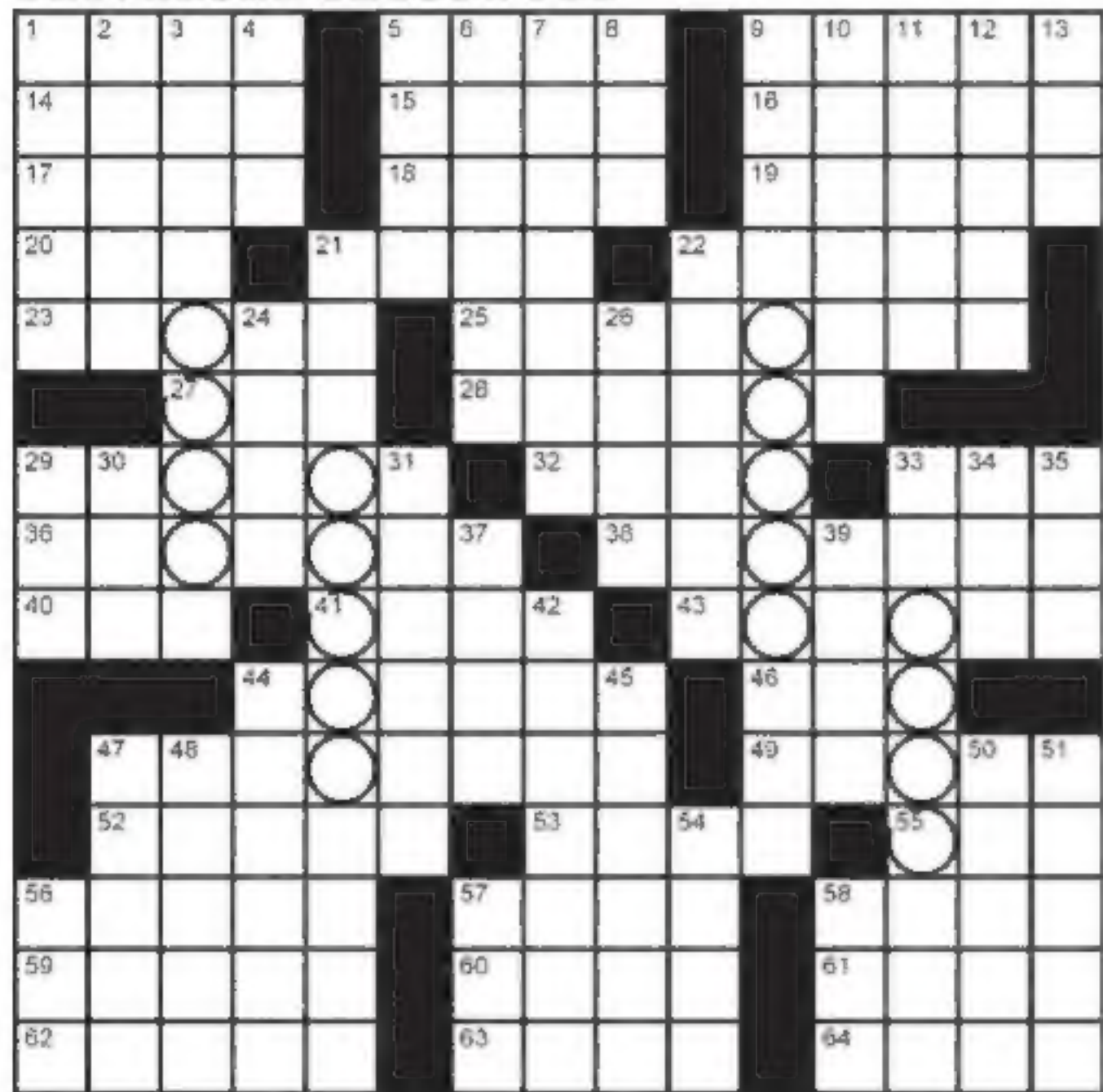
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Uptown by Matthew Faiella, edited by David Steinberg

- ACROSS
- 1 Design detail, briefly

5 Car-buying fig.

9 Referenced

14 Vehicle with a meter

15 Barely

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17 Elects (10)

18 Way of walking

19 Prepare to take off, as skates

20 "___ the land of the free ..."

21 Moral missteps

22 Crooked

23 Italian fashion brand

25 Completes a wire transfer?

27 Mar's opposite

28 Like a clock with Roman numerals

29 Jobs for bank robbers

32 Smile

33 Bylaw, for short

36 What L.A. and NYC are in?

38 Simone Biles' squad

40 Trash can top

41 Political coalition

43 Three ___ to the wind

44 Sheep sounds

46 Stately shade tree

47 Lineup at a pub

49 They can't be trusted because they make everything up!

52 Spills the beans

53 Like some coffee or tea

55 Aussie animal

56 Indian yogurt dip

57 At the peak of

58 Frankenstein's assistant

59 Like tin cans, vis-a-vis can openers ... by almost 50 years!

60 After the bell

61 Stubborn animal

62 Justice Kagan

63 Otherwise

64 Round veggies

11 "First Impressions," initially, for "Pride and Prejudice"

12 Gives off

13 Actor Billy ___ Williams

21 City on California's Central Coast (... letters 8-4)

22 Friends in battle

24 Frisbee, for one

26 Go separate ways

29 "2001: A Space Odyssey" computer

30 Quarterback Manning

31 Sounds of belly flops

33 Street in a Poe mystery (... letters 6-3)

34 "C" ___ la vie!

35 An EV doesn't need it

37 Buckwheat noodle

39 Soften in the heat

42 See 7-Down

44 Defeated

45 Fancy scarves

47 "Hoops"

48 Omit when pronouncing

50 Cash money

51 Tender spots

54 Fencing sword

56 Fish eggs

57 Drink in a pint glass

58 Mischievous sort
- DOWN
- 1 Front porch

2 Researcher's writing

3 Super safe salsa specification (In this answer, note letters 8-5)

4 Not trans

5 Three Wise Men

6 Poem division

7 With 42-Down, goal of entrepreneurs on "Shark Tank" ... and what this puzzle's theme answers are doing

8 Summer hrs. in L.A.

9 Road sign before a blind turn, say (... letters 9-5)

10 It ends after six outs

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ONLINE PRIVACY POLICIES

Solutions: 5 letters

SSYTEFASTOREDEE
SSHNI GOLTNUOCCA
EEEASDOITTWYIID
TCLRRRUSCNBTNVV
ACFUDEEAELOTEEE
LAOERDTORNETMDR
PERSONALORAAEFT
MRUCODEINDIBISI
EEMCAGTERLLHTS
TGMTAATOSEEEIHE
YIARLPWEGEDTSG
PSOUOSPAGOCCLTI
ETGESFLSWALUORB
SEMANRESUSPBRFO
RRPHOTOGRAPHYEM

Access, Account, Address, Advertise, Apps, Audit, Blog, Codes, Contact, Cyber, Data, Date, Device, Download, Email, File, Folder, Form, Forum, History, Internet, Laws, Legal, Login, Mobile, Notes, Notice, Order, Page, Password, Personal, Photograph, Register, Regulation, Rights, Rules, Safety, Secure, Share, Storage, Store, Tablet, Template, Type, Username

KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

Instructions: Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corner. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

EASY

CHALLENGING

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher (cryptograms) are derived from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“B”ZA CAZAV YAFFPU XRNKERX
NT WUDAPT FO HASVADOAH
ON WKMR FO B FW SFVFPUDAH
YU RNSA. — OXFCH-KS MNWAHDFC
WEVRF YFVTHNVH

as I am portrayed by Pope.” — Stand up comedian Maria Bamford
Solution: “I’ve never really thought of myself as depressed so much.” —

TODAY’S CLUE: “B” ZAY ZAY

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LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

HOROSCOPE FOR SEPTEMBER 3

BY EUGENIA LAST

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Don't take anything for granted. Do your homework, and set and stay within boundaries. Talk is cheap, so follow through and complete your plans to avoid being misunderstood or ignored.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look closer at a situation before you act. It's important to know what and who you are up against and to direct your energy appropriately. A misconception will give you a false sense of what's possible. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Adjust to the changes around you. The less fuss, the easier it will become to satisfy your soul and to put your heart into something that matters to you. It's how you perceive and respond to situations that make the difference. 5 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Distance yourself from what you cannot change and focus on improving your life. Adjusting your skills and attributes to blend in flawlessly with new trends will open doors. Make sure everything you promise is doable to avoid criticism. Sign up to learn something new or to expand your qualifications. 2 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Establish what you enjoy doing most and find a way to turn it into additional income. Get your house in order, and you'll feel at peace. Put money matters to rest by selling items you no longer use. 4 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take the uncertainty out of any situation by asking direct questions and giving straight answers. Facts are your route to reforming, replacing and revitalizing your path forward with honesty and a chance to make a positive difference. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Monitor what others do and say. A problem at work or in your community that influences your position or reputation is best averted quickly. Control your emotions and speak the truth; you'll overrule anyone trying to make you look bad. Don't let uncertainty interfere with authenticity. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): An open mind and compassionate heart will get you through anything you encounter. Use common sense and bounce your ideas off people you trust to give you an honest opinion. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): As long as you keep changing your mind, it is best not to make a move. Focus on getting things done before you venture down a new path. Check out an activity or event that captures your attention. What and who you encounter will offer valid considerations. 4 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Rethink your plans and eliminate any action fueled by someone else's wants. It's you who must be happy with your path forward. Choose what makes you content with yourself, your lifestyle and the company you keep. 2 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take the train that leads to financial gain, a better lifestyle and a healthier attitude. Don't abuse yourself to amuse others or to fit in with the wrong crowd. Surround yourself with positivity and a plan that ensures you do and achieve the best outcome possible. 5 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Spend more time sourcing how to look and feel your best. Whether you implement a healthy, active daily routine, give yourself more time to unwind or recover, or concentrate on something that brings you joy, it will encourage greater clarity and a pathway to follow. 3 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A shift will help you avoid a run-in with someone. Expect matters to get blown out of proportion and no improvements to be made if anger takes over. Use your imagination, be innovative and do your best to get along with others or offer them the freedom you want in return. 3 stars

BIRTHDAY BABY: You are sensitive, helpful and ambitious. You are changeable and timely.

UNIVERSAL

Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES

SOLUTIONS

1 Ford and Fonda (6)

2 trembles (6)

3 falcon, for example (6)

4 tweed cloth pattern (11)

5 carved in wood (8)

6 vacations at sea (7)

7 produced in the country (8)

UIS RAP HEN RR SHA

KES LED TOR GB ITT

HE ES ONE RYS EST

DOM IC CR WH IN

Answers: 1. HENRY 2. SHAKES 3. RAPTOR 4. HERINGBONE 5. WHITTLED 6. CRUISES 7. DOMESTIC

TODAY'S SOLUTIONS:

WONDERWORD: SITES

North America Weather

The Weather Network

www.theweathernetwork.com/ca/weather/alberta/calgary

Temperature Scale:

- 40
- 30
- 20
- 10
- 0
- 10
- 20
- 30
- 40

Weather Symbols:

- Snow
- T-storms
- Rain
- Rain-Snow

Legend:

- C-Cloudy FG-Fog FR-Freezing rain H2-Haze PC-Partly Cloudy A-Rain
- RS-Rain Snow S-Sun SN-Snow SH-Snowflakes SH-Showers T-Thunderstorms W-Windy

Comfort Index

Air Quality

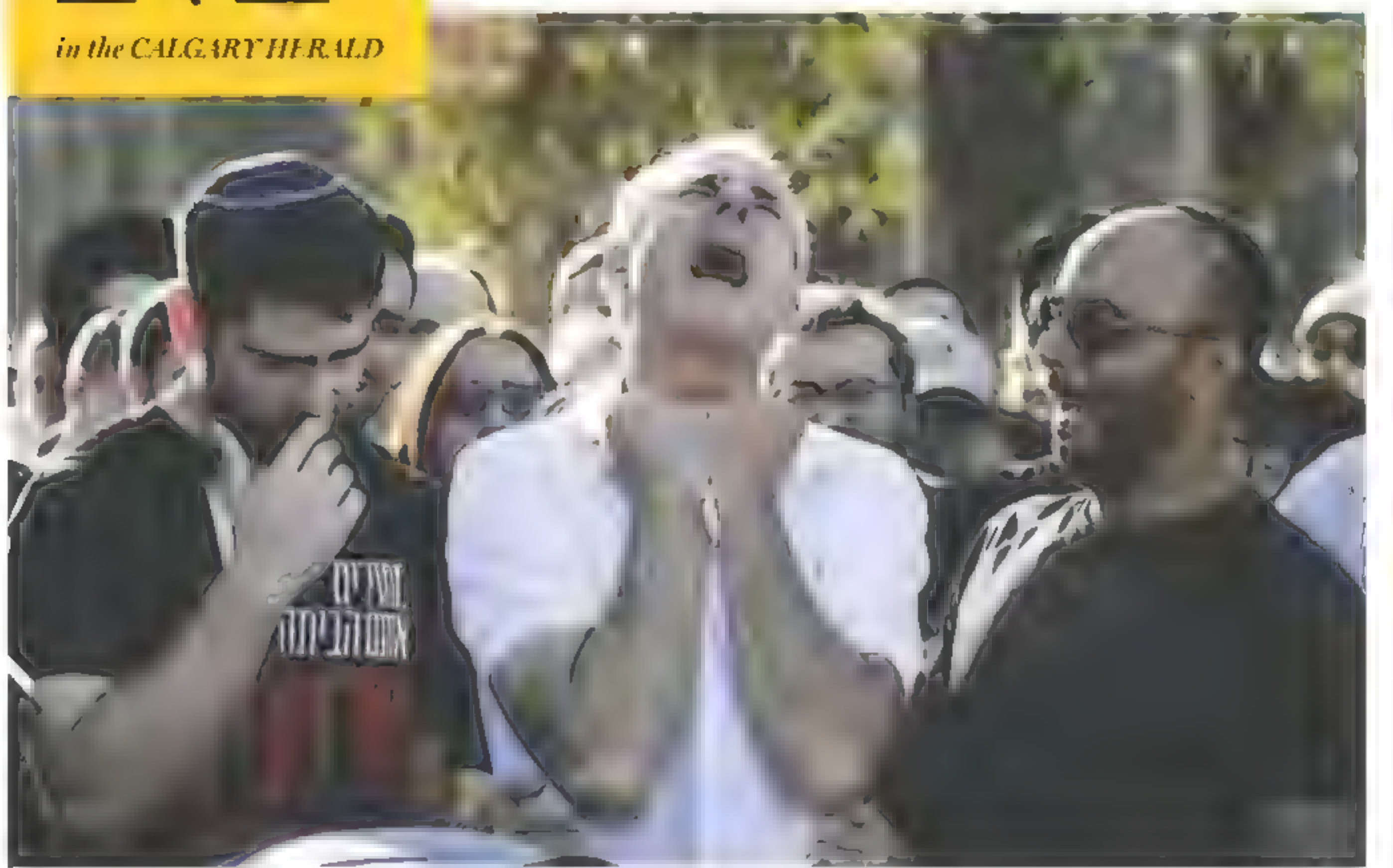
Alberta Today Tomorrow

City	Today	Tomorrow
Calgary	21/10 S	22/10 PC
Edmonton	21/10 S	22/10 PC
Regina	21/10 S	22/10 PC
Saskatoon	21/10 S	22/10 PC
Winnipeg	21/10 S	22/10 PC
Thunder Bay	21/10 S	22/10 PC
St. John's	21/10 S	22/10 PC
Halifax	21/10 S	22/10 PC
Montreal	21/10 S	22/10 PC
Quebec	21/10 S	22/10 PC
Ottawa	21/10 S	22/10 PC
Toronto	21/10 S	22/10 PC
Detroit	21/10 S	22/10 PC
Chicago	21/10 S	22/10 PC
St. Louis	21/10 S	22/10 PC
Phoenix	21/10 S	22/10 PC
Los Angeles	21/10 S	22/10 PC
San Francisco	21/10 S	22/10 PC
Seattle	21/10 S	22/10 PC
Vancouver	21/10 S	22/10 PC
San Jose	21/10 S	22/10 PC
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San Diego		

PAY-TV: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3														MOVIES				TALK		SPORTS		KIDS				
C	5 PM		6 PM		6:30		7 PM		7:30		8 PM		8:30		9 PM		9:30		10 PM		10:30		11 PM		11:30	
59	EI	Elementary	Elementary		Million		Million		Bob Heart		Bob Heart		E! News (N)		TMZ		TMZ Live		Bob Heart		Bob Heart					
60	CRVM1W	(4:35) 🏆 Rocky V (90)	(4:05) 🏆 Once Were Brothers: Robbie Robertson & T.		(4:05) 🏆 Dune: Part Two (24)		Zendaya, Timothée Chalamet		(4:05) Corner Gas		(4:05) Corner Gas		(4:05) Law & Order		🏆 Lamborghini: The Man Behind the Legend		(4:40) 🏆 The Honeymoon (22)		Asim Chaudhry, Pico Alexander		(4:40) 🏆 Evil Dead Rise (23)		Lily Sullivan		🏆 Rocky IV	
61	CRVM2W	Movie	(4:35) 🏆 Oscar Peterson: Black + White (20)		(4:05) 🏆 Metal Shifters (18)		Kavan Smith		(4:05) Once Were Brothers: Robbie Robertson & The B.		(4:05) Corner Gas		(4:05) Corner Gas		(4:05) Law & Order											
62	CRVM3W	(4:40) Transplant	(4:05) 🏆 The Woman Who Loves Giraffes (18)		(4:05) 🏆 The Lionheart (23)		Scott Dixon, Michael Andreotti		(4:05) 🏆 The Great Lillian Hall (24)		Kathy Bates, Jessica Lange		Boardwalk Empire													
63	HSB2	Movie	(4:05) 🏆 I Am Bruce Lee (12)		(4:05) 🏆 Kobe Bryant		(4:05) 🏆 Casper (95)		Bill Pullman, Christina Ricci		Power Book II: Ghost		Power Book II: Ghost		Spartacus: Blood and Sand											
64	OWN	(4:00) Channel No Longer Available This channel is no longer available.										(4:00) Channel No Longer Available This channel is no longer available.														
65	NGEO	Mariana van	Mariana van		Disaster Autopsy (N)		Lost Beasts: Unearthed (N)		Mariana van		Disaster Autopsy		Lost Beasts: Unearthed													
66	H2	Counting Cars	Swamp People		Swamp People		Swamp People		Swamp People		Swamp People		Swamp People		Swamp People		Swamp People		Swamp People		Swamp People		Swamp People		Swamp People	
67	MYS	NCIS: Los Angeles	NCIS: New Orleans (N)		NCIS: New Orleans (N)		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0	
68	MTIME	(4:30) 🏆 Irresistible (20)	Rose Byrne, Steve Carell		(4:30) 🏆 Irresistible (20)		Rose Byrne, Steve Carell		(4:30) 🏆 Irresistible (20)		Rose Byrne, Steve Carell		(4:30) 🏆 Irresistible (20)		Rose Byrne, Steve Carell		(4:30) 🏆 Irresistible (20)		Rose Byrne, Steve Carell		(4:30) 🏆 Irresistible (20)		Rose Byrne, Steve Carell		(4:30) 🏆 Irresistible (20)	
69	ADSM	American Dad!	American Dad!		Bob's Burgers		Bob's Burgers		Family Guy		Family Guy		King of the Hill		King of the Hill		Rick and Morty		Rick and Morty		Chicken		Smiling / YOLO		Family Guy	
70	LIFE	S.W.A.T.	NCIS: New Orleans		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0		S.W.A.T.		S.W.A.T.		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0	
71	DOCU	🏆 Prosecuting Evil: The Extraordinary World of B...	Stats-Life		🏆 Still Max (21)		Stats-Life		The World's Biggest Family		🏆 Still Max (21)		Stats-Life		The World's Biggest Family		Stats-Life		The World's Biggest Family		Stats-Life		The World's Biggest Family		Stats-Life	
72	FAM.RI	Fabulous	CareBears		Smurfs: Smurfs		GrizzlyAnd		Mike / Mike		BraveBum		Justin Time		Fabulous		Chip & Potato		Mike / Mike		(30) Callow		(30) Callow		(40) Chip &	
73	WULB	American Ninja Warrior Junior	Supergirl		Dwight		Afraid?		Afraid?		Goosebumps		Goosebumps		Goosebumps		Cleopatra		JohnnyT		JohnnyT		The Deep		The Deep	
74	ABCS	The Fosters	8 Simple Rules		Man-Plan		Life in Pieces		Life in Pieces		Fresh-Boat		Fresh-Boat		The Fosters		Good Trouble				Young		Young		Young	
75	AP	Animal Cops: Houston	North Woods Law		Lone Star Law		Lone Star Law		Lone Star Law		Dr. Jeff Rocky Mountain Vet		The Vet Life		The Vet Life		Lone Star Law		North Woods Law		North Woods Law		North Woods Law		North Woods Law	
76	BBCW	Newsday	Business		Newsday		Business		BBC News		Business		BBC News		The Med!		BBC News		HARDtalk		BBC News		Business		BBC News	
77	DJV	Will & Grace	Will & Grace		Raymond		Raymond		Taxi		Taxi		Cheers		Cheers		Will & Grace		Will & Grace		Mork & Mindy		Dear John		Taxi	
78	CNBC	Shark Tank	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Capital Connection (N) Live		Squawk Box Europe (N) Live							
79	GOLF	Palmer Cup (N)	2023 Solheim Cup Golf Final Day Professional women golfers compete to win on the final day of the 2023 Solheim Cup Golf.														The Golf Fix		Breaking		Breaking					
80	SCH	(4:25) 🏆 Soacha Oddity (22)	Friends Soacha		🏆 The Last Ride (21)		Bethan Walker		(4:20) Friends Soacha		(4:50) 🏆 The Last Ride (21)		Bethan Walker													

AN EDITION OF
NP
in the CALGARY HERALD

GERMAN CHANCELLOR OLAF SCHOLZ IS URGING A BOYCOTT OF AN ANTI-MIGRANT PARTY AFTER IT EASILY WON TWO STATES, THE FIRST TIME THE FAR RIGHT HAS WON A STATE ELECTION IN GERMANY SINCE THE SECOND WORLD WAR. NP3



Yigal Sarusi, centre, mourns during the funeral of his son, hostage Almog Sarusi, who was killed by Hamas captors shortly before Israeli troops found him on Saturday.

**TORIES
TARGET
NDP WITH
NEW ADS**

LABOUR DAY
'Ordinary people'
focus of bid for
orange ridings

STUART THOMSON
OTTAWA • Conservatives are doubling down on the party's appeals to "ordinary people" with a multi-pronged advertising campaign designed to woo workers.
A 60-second television ad launched on Labour Day celebrates "the people who rise when it is still dark" and describes a litany of problems that plague them, including crime, inflation and unaffordable housing.
The ad ends on a hopeful note, with a voice-over from

Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre describing a "new dawn rising" where "everyone gets a fair shot at a good life."
That advertisement will be accompanied by a similar 30-second TV commercial and a 30-second radio ad calling NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh a "sellout" for continuing to prop up the minority Liberal government.
By now, it's become common to see Canada's conservative parties making overt appeals to unions and blue collar workers and Poilievre has been hammering home his message to the "common people" for two years.
"I think it is smart politics. The union movement is not that big in the private sector. What they're signalling, though, is that they share the concerns of those who are working hard daily for their money, who don't have it easy, who don't have connections," said Brian Dykema, who is the president of the faith-based Cardus think tank and a former union organizer.
Although previous Conservative leaders have tried to court blue collar workers, Poilievre has backed it up recently with some votes in the House of Commons that he has described as "pro-worker."
See WORKERS on NP2

Protests, outrage
rock Israel

**STEVE HENDRIX
AND SHIRA RUBIN**
in Jerusalem

Israelis over two days staged the largest anti-government demonstration since Oct. 7, with hundreds of thousands of people taking to the streets and joining a general strike Monday that brought much of the country to a halt as the last of six hostages recovered from Gaza over the weekend was laid to rest.
Israeli-American Hersh Goldberg-Polin, 23, and five other hostages were shot at close range and killed by their captors, Israeli forensics results showed, shortly before they were found by the Israeli military on Saturday.
Their deaths announced Sunday, sent shock waves throughout Israel and ignited widespread fury among hostage families and their hundreds of thousands of supporters who have for months accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of torpedoing a deal in favour of his political interests.
"Hersh, we failed you, we all failed you," said Hersh's father, Jon

**THOUSANDS
DEMAND DEAL
FOR HOSTAGES
AFTER 6 KILLED
BY CAPTORS**

Polin at the funeral on Monday, his shirt torn in accordance with Jewish mourning tradition and a sticker bearing the number 332 — the number of days that the six hostages languished in Hamas captivity.
The other five have been identified as Ori Danino, 25, Eden Yerushalmi, 24, Almog Sarusi, 27, Alexander Lobanov, 33, and Carmel Gat, 40.
The Israeli Health Ministry said autopsies determined they had been shot at close range and died on Thursday or Friday.
"Hamas has actually started to kill people directly to raise the pressure on the government to enter a deal on its conditions," Shimon Or, the uncle of captive Avinatan Or

and a member of the Tikva Forum, a group that believes military pressure is the best way to secure the freedom of the rest of the hostages.
"Hamas anticipated that instead of blaming the killers, the Israeli people would put the responsibility on the government, which actually wants to bring back the hostages," he added.
Jon Polin, who with his wife Rachel has spearheaded American Israeli hostage family delegations to the U.S. and recently spoke at the Democratic National Convention, said about Hersh that he hoped that "maybe, just maybe, your death is the fuel that will bring home the remaining hostages."
On Monday, thousands of workers joined an hours-long national strike that crippled transportation systems, prompted medical staff to reduce hospitals to emergency services, and shut businesses across the country in solidarity with demonstrators blocking highways and calling on Netanyahu to step down and make room for another leader to sign onto a deal to bring home the nearly 100 hostages that remain in Gaza.
See HOSTAGES on NP3

Titanic expedition rediscovers bronze statue, shows loss of bow railing

PATRICK WHITTLE
A bronze statue from the Titanic — not seen in decades and feared to be lost for good — is among the discoveries made by the company with salvage rights to the wreck site on its first expedition there in years.
RMS Titanic Inc., a Georgia-based company that holds the legal rights to the 112-year-old wreck, has com-

pleted its first trip since 2010 and released images from the expedition on Monday.
The trip to the site of the sinking 740 km off the coast of Newfoundland occurred as the U.S. Coast Guard investigates the June 2023 implosion of the Titan, an experimental submersible owned by a different company. The Titan submersible disaster killed all five people on board, including
Paul-Henri Nargeolet, who was director of underwater research for RMS Titanic.
The findings from this summer's trip "showcase a bittersweet mix of preservation and loss," RMS Titanic said. A highlight was the rediscovery of the statue "Diana of Versailles," last seen in 1986, and the statue now has a clear and updated image, the company said.
A significant section of the

railing that surrounds the ship bow's forecastle deck has fallen, RMS Titanic said. The railing still stood as recently as 2022, the company said.
"The discovery of the statue of Diana was an exciting moment. But we are saddened by the loss of the iconic bow railing and other evidence of decay which has only strengthened our commitment to preserving Titanic's legacy," said Tomasina Ray, director of collections for RMS Titanic.
The crew spent 20 days at the site and returned to Providence, R.I., on Aug. 9. They captured more than two million of the highest resolution pictures of the site ever to exist, the company said.
The team also fully mapped the wreck and its debris field.
The Associated Press



RMS TITANIC INC. VIA AP

ADVERTISING
ADRIAN FAULL, SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT, MEDIA SALES
ADRIAN.FAULL@POSTMEDIA.COM

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JO-ANNE MACDONALD, NP EDITOR

WWW.POSTMEDIA.CA/ADSALES/CONTACT

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NEWS

How one school board plans to use AI in classes

OTTAWA

ALEX GORDON

OTTAWA • When students return to Catholic schools in Ottawa this week, they will be able to use artificial intelligence to help solve math problems and create essay outlines.

Their teachers, too, can turn to AI to generate lesson plans, adjust content to a student's specific needs, and give feedback on assignments.

The Ottawa Catholic School Board is paving the way for AI use in the classroom with newly developed AI guiding principles for all grade levels, at a time when many school boards across Canada are grappling with how to responsibly embrace the ever-evolving technology.

The board says it wants to strike the right balance in ethics, use of artificial intelligence — including generative AI — while also teaching its 45,000 students about digital literacy.

"It's extremely important because AI is part of just about everything every student and every teacher will be encountering in their life," director of education Tom D'Amico said in an interview.

One expert said that, to his knowledge, no other school board in Ontario is taking such concrete steps to develop policies on AI use.

"I've been interacting with a lot of Ontario school boards and the Ministry of Education in the last six months, and everyone is pointing to (the) Ottawa (Catholic School Board) like, 'Well, I think they've really got their act together,'" said Mark Daley, Western University's chief artificial intelligence officer.

The board's students will be allowed to use AI to help develop ideas for a project or an essay, summarize a complex document, or create illustrations to jazz up a presentation.

For students in kindergarten to Grade 6, the use of artificial intelligence will be primarily teacher-led and generative AI tools such as ChatGPT and Google Gemini will be limited to students 13 or older, per rules set out by the service providers.

The Ottawa Catholic School Board stresses that it's not looking to replace the building blocks of literacy, such as books, reading and writing, with artificial intelligence.

"There might just be opportunities with AI that those younger grades have entry points with that can really reshape or re-envision what that assignment or what that endeavour in their activity in the classroom looks like," said Julian Daher, a learning technologies consultant for the board.

"A Grade 1 student is not going to be sitting on a device using artificial intelligence every day."

Meanwhile, teachers will have access to programs that can help them organize their classes, create instructional materials and make lessons more accessible for students with disabilities or those who are still learning English.

The Canadian Press



ADD: COMMERCIAL

A scene from the new ad campaign. Pierre Poilievre's pro-worker turn has made some of his free-market friends in the conservative coalition chafe.

Feds paid \$1.5M settlement to ex-civil servant

Discriminated against in job applications

TYLER DAWSON

After a legal battle that lasted more than a decade, a former public servant has won a settlement of \$1.5 million from the federal government.

"I almost died a few times, close to suicide," Chris Hughes told National Post. "It was a huge weight off my shoulders."

In 2007, Hughes went to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, alleging that Transport Canada had discriminated against him on the basis of mental disability and eliminated him from competitions for four jobs he had been seeking.

Hughes suffers from depression that he says was brought on after he blew the whistle on age discrimination at the Canada Border Services Agency and an illegal practice by a colleague at the Canada Revenue Agency. He worked for those agencies for 10 years, between 1995 and 2005.

The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal said Hughes described his departure as being forced to resign as part of a settlement.

He revealed his depression in job interviews for four positions at Transport Canada between 2005 and 2007.

In a 2014 Canadian Human Rights Tribunal decision, tribunal member Robert Malo found the "subtle

scent of discrimination" existed regarding Hughes' 2005 application to Transport Canada for a job as a marine intelligence officer, an anti-terrorism position classified as top secret.

The tribunal said the department's reasons for screening out Hughes "appear non-credible" and were a "pretext" that eliminated Hughes from the job competition. As well, because of Hughes's history with the Canada Revenue Agency and Canada Border Services Agency, the tribunal found that Hughes's challenges in providing references "significantly influenced" the hiring board.

What followed was a tortuous legal fight, with multiple different court and human rights tribunal filings as the case wound towards a settlement.

Hughes took the government department then known as Human Resources and Social Development Canada to the tribunal, and won in 2012. He also took the CRA and CBSA to the tribunal over the years.

In 2022, Hughes and the

government settled with the government agreeing to pay him \$1.545 million. The details of the settlement only became public recently when there was a court dispute over the implementation of the settlement, Hughes said.

The settlement follows a 2019 tribunal decision, which awarded him around \$518,000 from Transport Canada. The money was paid, but the government also sought judicial review of the tribunal decision, continuing the legal battle.

Ad told Hughes told National Post he has been paid around \$2.4 million in settlements — potentially one of the largest discrimination payouts in Canadian history.

But the legal battle took a toll on Hughes. The government, for example, tried to claim that he was a vexatious litigant during the court battles to enforce the judgments from the human rights tribunal.

"I lost everything. My first marriage fell apart. Had to sell my house, dissolve all my assets to survive. I was like, deeply in debt, many times, waiting for some payments to come, begging people for money so I could buy food," Hughes said.

He splits his time now between Canada and Thailand, where he has a family that he's hoping to bring to Canada with him.

"I might try to find a job with a department that I haven't had a prior conflict with, yes," said Hughes, when asked if he would consider returning to work for the federal government.

National Post



JEAN LEBLANC / POSTMEDIA NEWS

Chris Hughes says he began suffering from depression after he blew the whistle on age discrimination at the CBSA and an illegal practice by a colleague at the CRA.

Shift toward pro-worker stance ahead of byelection, retirement in key NDP ridings

WORKERS

(Continued from NP1)

It surprised supporters earlier this year when Poilievre's party voted in favour of a ban on the use of replacement workers at federally regulated workplaces — commonly referred to as "anti-scab" legislation.

The Conservatives also took a low profile last week when a rail stoppage threatened to grind Canada's economy to a halt, until the Liberal government sent the dispute to binding arbitration.

The pro-worker turn from Poilievre has made some of his free-market friends in the conservative coalition chafe.

"It will certainly cost him some support among free-market conservatives, but he has evidently calculated this will be more than offset by the support he gets from other voters," said Matthew Lau, an adjunct scholar at the Fraser Institute, a free market think tank, and regular columnist for the Financial Post.

Poilievre's strategy follows moves made by Ontario Premier Doug Ford to appeal to working-class voters, which paid off in the last Ontario election when Ford poached some longtime NDP seats.

"This shift in policy to get votes is normal politics from a mainstream politician — similarly to Ford in Ontario, a conservative politician shifting away from conservative policies to get votes," said Lau.

Monte McNaughton, Ford's former labour minister, imagines a new kind of conservatism that cares more about clean washrooms for truckers than cutting corporate taxes.

"I would argue that everything I did from a policy perspective was conservative," said McNaughton, who believes that a fundamental

shift has happened among voters.

With downtown dwellers and corporate-class voters shifting to the centre-left, it leaves an opening for conservative parties with working people.

"The parties on the left abandoned working class people a long time ago. They are more concerned about boutique social issues instead of what matters to workers — good jobs with pensions and benefits, like those in skilled trades," said McNaughton.

Federally, the Conservative strategy is designed to appeal to average Canadian workers on a grand scale. On a smaller scale, it's targeted at garnering seats from the NDP, which has traditionally styled itself as the party of blue-collar workers.

Staffers in Poilievre's office are particularly enticed by the prospect of winning the riding of Elmwood—Transcona, Man., in a federal byelection on Sept. 16, which would turn an NDP stronghold blue, and they've been eyeing the Timmins—James Bay, Ont., seat held by longtime NDP MP Charlie Angus, who is retiring.

A radio ad that accompanies the Conservative television advertisements takes direct aim at Singh, describing him as a champagne socialist who likes "BMW's, Rolex watches, Versace bags."

The ad picks up on a line of attack that Poilievre debuted last week, urging Singh to stop supporting the Liberals in the House of Commons and provoke a "carbon tax election" in October.

The Conservatives have accused Singh of keeping the Liberals in power just long enough that the NDP leader will qualify for a "taxpayer-funded pension."

National Post
ethowatn@postmedia.com

FLORIDA

MAN GETS 10 YEARS FOR ATTACK ON JEWISH TEENS

A Florida man has been sentenced to 10 years in prison after pleading no contest to attacking four Jewish teenagers who were walking along a road while dressed for a religious holiday in 2022

Noah Amato, 19, and a friend were riding a bike in Ponte Vedra Beach while under the influence of drugs and alcohol. Amato shouted a slur to the group who were celebrating the Jewish holi-

day of Sukkot. He hit one of the teens with a handgun in the face, deputies said, and fired the gun near the teens' head. Amato's lawyer disputed parts of the account, saying the teen who was targeted, Zalman Barrocas, had shoved Amato first. "I believe this man should have the maximum punishment," Barrocas told the court. "My life could have been over that day."

The Associated Press



Israel hostages, from top left, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, Ori Danino, Eden Yerushalmi, and from bottom left, Almog Sarusi, Alexander Lobanov and Carmel Gat, who were held captive by Hamas militants in Gaza. On Sunday, the Hostages Families Forum announced their deaths while in Hamas captivity.

'Deal', not raids, best for hostages

HOSTAGES
Continued from NP1

Though U.S. President Joe Biden has repeatedly said a deal to secure the release of the hostages was within reach, Netanyahu has insisted on maintaining an Israeli presence along the Philadelphia Corridor, a strategic buffer zone between Gaza and Egypt that Israel says is used by Hamas to smuggle weapons. On Monday, when Biden was asked if Netanyahu was doing enough to secure a hostage deal, he replied, "no."

U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer's government said Monday that it's suspending exports of some weapons to Israel because they could be used to break international law — a move with limited military impact intended to increase pressure by Israel's allies for an end to the war.

Foreign Secretary David Lammy said the decision related to about 30 of 350 existing export licences for

equipment "that we assess is for use in the current conflict in Gaza," including parts for military planes, helicopters and drones.

The strike Monday ended hours earlier than expected when Israel's National Labor Court, responding to government complaints, ruled in the afternoon that the work stoppage was a political activity and not a legitimate labour action.

The demonstrations come as the Israeli military, manoeuvring throughout the Gaza Strip, has begun to bring home the remains of hostages — a grim wake-up call, many hostage families say, that their loved ones' time is quickly running out.

"We need the hostages to come home with a deal, we don't need the army going to look for them," said Aviva Siegel, a former Israeli hostage whose husband, Keith, a dual American and Israeli citizen, is still held in Gaza.

"The majority of the Israelis believe that the lives of the hostages are more important than the continu-

ations of the war," said Gil Dickman, whose cousin Carmel Gat was dragged into Gaza from kibbutz Beer and was among the bodies returned by the Israeli military on Saturday.

He said he was devastated that it was too late for his cousin, but believed public pressure could force Netanyahu to change course and save the lives of the dozens of hostages still alive in Gaza.

Israel and Hamas blame each other for a series of failed ceasefire talks. Netanyahu said Sunday that the killing of the six hostages proved that Hamas "does not want a deal."

Israelis are divided between those who want the war in Gaza to continue until Hamas is "destroyed" and those who say getting the hostages home alive should be the first priority.

But the largest hostage umbrella group has long accused Netanyahu of catering to his hawkish far-right supporters instead of making a deal happen.

U.S. officials said Sunday the killing of the six hostages had spurred them to work with Egyptian and Qatari negotiators on a final "take it or leave it" proposal to present to Israel and Hamas in coming weeks.

The Washington Post, with files from The Associated Press, Jewish News Syndicate

Italian teen confesses to stabbing his family

MILAN • A 17-year-old high school student, who confessed to stabbing to death his 12-year-old brother and parents, had been suffering a general sense of "malaise," Italian prosecutors said Monday, adding that he has been unable to provide a motive for a triple homicide that has shocked Italy.

The minor, whose name is being withheld because of his age, was being held on suspicion of murder with aggravating circumstances including premeditation.

The stabbings happened around 2 a.m. Sunday morning in a Milan suburb following a family gathering for the father's 51st birthday.

The youth took a knife from the kitchen and first entered the room he shared with the younger brother and stabbed him, according to prosecutors. When his mother came to investigate, he stabbed her and then the father as he attempted to give aid to the younger son.

All three suffered multiple stab wounds to the throat and neck, said Sabrina Ditaranto, a prosecutor handling youth offenders.

The suspect called the police, initially claiming to have killed only the father in self-defence, accusing him of having killed the mother and brother. He eventually confessed to all three murders.

"From a judicial point of view, we don't have a motive," Ditaranto told a news conference.

"He does not give a logical and coherent explanation for what happened," she added, saying he had referred to a general sense of "malaise," that was "his own" and not related to any family issues.

The murder has provoked a debate about the isolation of youths following the pandemic and in an era dominated by social media.

Ditaranto said they scoured the suspect's use of social media and music, and no clear picture has emerged, beyond his description of feeling isolated.

It also comes after an other stabbing death of a 33-year-old woman out on an evening walk near the northern city of Bergamo on July 30, in an apparently random crime.

The Associated Press

'We all failed you': Israeli-American's funeral a scene of anguish

KILLED BY CAPTORS

MELANIE LIDMAN

JERUSALEM • An Israeli-American family that became an international icon in the struggle to free hostages from Hamas captivity in Gaza laid their son to rest on Monday after he was said to have been killed by his terrorist captors as Israeli soldiers were approaching the spot where he was being held.

Thousands of people thronged a Jerusalem cemetery to pay their respects to Hersh Goldberg-Polin, whose face became one of the most recognizable symbols of the hostage crisis.

Mourners massed around the car as the family of the 23-year-old man left their home in Jerusalem, and crowds, many hoisting Israeli flags or dressed in the colours of Goldberg-Polin's favourite soccer team, lined

a major thoroughfare in Jerusalem as the car headed to the cemetery. Mourners laid wreaths at the foot of his coffin and sang a prayer.

Many in the crowd erupted in sobs as his mother, Rachel Goldberg-Polin, said goodbye to her son and told him, "Finally, finally, finally you are free!"

She and her husband Jon shared stories of their son, who they said was funny, curious and relentless in the pursuit of justice. They said they hoped his death might at least be a turning point in drawn-out negotiations for a ceasefire and hostage release.

"We failed you, we all failed you. You would not have failed you," Jon said. "Maybe your death is the stone, the fuel, that will bring home the 101 other hostages."

"Sorry Hersh, sorry we couldn't bring you back alive," Israel's President Isaac Herzog said in a eulogy.

Israel's military announced Sunday that the bodies of Goldberg-Polin

and five other hostages had been discovered in an underground tunnel in the southern Gaza Strip.

His U.S.-born parents, Jon and Rachel, became two of the most high-profile relatives of hostages on the international stage. During their desperate fight to free their son, they met with U.S. President Joe Biden, Pope Francis and others.

The native of Berkeley, Calif., was attending a music festival when Hamas terrorists stormed into southern Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking 250 hostage.

Goldberg-Polin lost part of his left arm to a grenade blast during the attack, which sparked a devastating war that has stretched nearly 11 months. In April, a Hamas-issued video, filmed under duress, showed him with his left hand missing, sparking new protests in Israel urging the government to do more to secure his and others freedom.

The Associated Press

WORLD

German leader urges boycott of far right after election win

Anti-migrant AfD party easily wins in 2 states

KATE BRADY

BERLIN — Victories for Germany's far-right Alternative for Germany in two eastern states prompted Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Monday to urge mainstream parties to forge coalitions without the anti-migrant party.

"All democratic parties are now called upon to form stable governments with out right-wing extremists," Scholz told Reuters, describing the outcome as "bitter."

Preliminary results from Sunday's election saw the AfD with a clear win in Thuringia with 32.8 per cent of votes — marking the first time that the far right has won a state election in Germany since the Second World War. In neighbouring Saxony, the AfD is on track to finish a strong second with 30.6 per cent — just 1.3 points behind the conservative Christian Democrats (CDU). Results will be confirmed by state election commissioners in the coming days.

"Our country cannot and must not get used to that. The AfD is damaging Germany. It is weakening the economy, dividing society and ruining our country's reputation," Scholz said.

All other parties in Germany have ruled out forming alliances with the AfD, but the far right's strength in numbers in both state parliaments will make coalition building particularly tricky — a potential sign of the problems to come in next year's federal elections.

AFD co-leader Alice Weidel, said on Monday, however, that without her party "a stable majority is not possible" in Saxony and Thuringia, where the AfD is categorized as "extremist" by regional domestic intelligence.

"The voters have made a clear decision. They want the AfD to participate in the government," Weidel told German broadcaster ZDF, adding that she doesn't believe the "undemocratic firewall" established by the other parties against the AfD can be maintained.

Following Sunday's elections, hundreds of people took to the streets in Saxony and Thuringia to protest the shift to the right. Around 500 demonstrators gathered at the state parliament in Erfurt, the state capital of

Thuringia, police said. Small demonstrations were also held in Berlin and Hamburg. In the capital, around 350 people assembled in front of a district AfD office carrying placards with slogans such as "Ban the AfD now. Ban Nazi parties now."

While the AfD's chances of governing a state are slim, in Thuringia the party will be granted special rights of a "blocking minority" after winning more than a third of seats in the regional parliament. The rule enables the party to veto certain decisions such as amendments to the regional state constitution and the appointment of judges. In Saxony, the AfD fell one seat short.

Founded in 2013 as a Euroskeptic party, the party's anti-migrant rhetoric became a party policy mainstay following the 2015 migration crisis. In the years since, the AfD radicalized to such an extent that the party is under surveillance at federal level after being categorized as "suspected extremist."

A poll conducted Sunday by Infratest Dimap suggested that the AfD is no

OUR COUNTRY CANNOT AND MUST NOT GET USED TO THAT. THE AfD IS DAMAGING GERMANY.

longer the "protest party" that many voters and observers once described. According to surveys, around half of AfD voters in Saxony and Thuringia voted for the far right "out of conviction for my party." Around 40 per cent voted "out of disappointment with other parties."

"Protest" is if you vote for them once, but, there are a lot of people who have voted for them the second or even the third time," said Andrea Römmele, dean of executive education at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin.

"Some of the reasons why people vote for the AfD is, indeed, because they are dissatisfied with the national coalition. But what the numbers also show is that for people in these states migration and security are the most important issues, and they see the AfD as the most competent party to solve these issues," she said.

The Washington Post



Participants in a demonstration against the far right hold a banner with the slogan "Stop AfD! Racism is not an alternative" in Hamburg on Sunday.

QUEBEC

MINISTER PLEDGES
TO PROBE VIA DELAY
THAT LASTED 10 HOURS

Charity seeks \$37K
in surety for sexual
harassment case

Trudeau
Foundation aims
to 'demoralize'
activist: lawyer

TYLER DAWSON

The Trudeau Foundation and former Northwest Territories premier Stephen Kakfwi are seeking more than \$37,000 in surety from an Indigenous activist suing the foundation and Kakfwi for \$2.25 mill on over alleged sexual harassment.

In a document filed in Quebec Superior Court on Aug. 14, lawyers for the defendants request that Cherry Smiley provide "suretyship for security for the legal costs that the Court could award in favour of the Foundation."

In essence, the two defendants have added up their respective legal costs and want the money that Smiley, 40, may have to pay should she lose her court battle set aside to ensure that the defendants, should they win, will be paid.

Kakfwi, 71, is seeking \$18,527.20 in suretyship. The Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation is seeking \$19,195.57. Lawyers for the two defendants say in the respective motions that the money would cover court fees, stenographer and transcript fees and legal and expert fees.

The parties will be in a Montreal court to debate the matter today.

Smiley's lawyer, Kathryn Marshall, says there have been a number of procedural and jurisdictional barriers thrown up over the course of the case in addition to the latest request for suretyship. Smiley will be represented in court Tuesday by Quebec lawyer Jérémie John Martin.

"I truly believe their objective, the Trudeau Foundation's objective, is to completely kill her spirit and demoralize her," Marshall said in an interview Monday. "I have never experienced a defendant bringing a security for cost motion in a sexual harassment case. I think it's highly unusual for defendants to do that in cases like this, because optically, it doesn't look good to do that, to victimize (the) plaintiff."

In an affidavit, Smiley, a member of the Nlaka'pamux Nation in British Columbia, told the court that she cannot afford to leave nearly \$40,000 with the court.

"I am the victim of sexual assault that (has) already been prejudiced in my ability to seek justice — \$40,000 in security will present a significant barrier to me accessing justice," her affidavit says.

Lawyers for Kakfwi, a Dene elder who lives in Yellowknife, and the Trudeau

Foundation did not respond to National Post's request for comment by press time.

The Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation is a charity that awards scholarships and connects student academics with various mentors. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is not involved with the board of directors, nor is he a foundation member, the group that selects the board. His brother, Alexandre Trudeau, is a foundation member.

In 2021, Smiley sued the foundation, alleging that when she was a scholarship student with the foundation in 2018, she was sexually harassed by Kakfwi, whom the Trudeau Foundation had assigned as her mentor. Her lawsuit alleges that Smiley and Kakfwi had dinner together in St. John's, N.L., during a three-day event and shared a taxi back to the hotel afterward. In the lobby, Smiley's claim alleges that Kakfwi "suddenly moved his body extremely close to hers, grabbed her upper arm close to her breasts and proceeded to massage and rub her arm for an extended period," according to a summary from a Newfoundland court decision.

Smiley alleges that the Trudeau Foundation pressed her to sign a non-disclosure agreement, which Smiley refused to do, according to her statement of claim. She later withdrew from the foundation's events and the mentorship program, saying she no longer felt safe because of the foundation's response to her complaint.

None of the allegations has been proved in court. In a statement of defence, Kakfwi "denies grabbing the Plaintiff's arm, rubbing, and massaging it for a prolonged period. He specifically denies that there was any contact between he and the Plaintiff, which could be construed as being sexual in nature."

The Trudeau Foundation has not filed a statement of defence.

The lawsuit has been mired in fighting over jurisdiction. Smiley, who lives in B.C., had originally filed it in a B.C. court, but then moved the case to Newfoundland and Labrador, where the alleged harassment occurred.

However, the Trudeau Foundation fought to have the case moved to Quebec, where it is based. Justice Peter Browne with the New Brunswick and Labrador Superior Court determined that Quebec was the appropriate jurisdiction. Both Smiley and Kakfwi had opposed the motion and Smiley has launched an appeal of that decision.

In the meantime, in February 2024, Smiley refilled her lawsuit in Quebec.

"Instead of throwing out as many hurdles and procedural barriers, just defend it on the merits," Marshall said.

National Post

Transport Minister Pablo Rodriguez said he is determined to get to the bottom of a delay that left Via Rail passengers stranded for about 10 hours in Quebec on the long weekend. Rodriguez said he is meeting with Via Rail leadership this week. Via Rail passengers were stuck for 10 hours on Saturday when a train broke down between Montreal and Quebec City. Electricity, air conditioning and washrooms were shut down at times to allow for repairs and coupling with another train, the company said. But it insisted that passengers were

offered beverages and snacks, and that a meal was delivered in the evening. The fire department was eventually called to help transfer passengers from one train to another. Via Rail said it is also investigating after an employee took away a passenger's phone during this time, and appropriate measures will be taken after a review. "We are committed to ... ensuring that all passengers are treated with respect and dignity," the company said, offering its deepest apologies for the inconvenience and a full refund. *The Canadian Press*



Justin Trudeau's tense discussion with a steelworker in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., last Friday was handled well by the prime minister, although the exchange highlights the depth of the hole Trudeau is in, John Ivison writes.

COMMENT

PM finds himself between
steelworker and a hard place



JOHN IVISON

Justin Trudeau's exchange with a steelworker at the Algoma plant in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., last Friday suggests two things — that the prime minister's position is objectively hopeless but that he is not, in fact, totally helpless.

Let me explain. The worker and it appears he was a worker, not a Conservative plant, as some online have charged, given he was wearing a Local 225 shirt in a secure part of the Algoma property at shift change — was about as rude as Canadian voters ever get when they meet a politician. Namely, he wouldn't shake hands and told Trudeau he didn't believe a word he said, before urging the prime minister to "have a nice day."

The worker blamed Trudeau for the 40 per cent tax rate he said he is paying and for his lack of access to a family doctor.

Since it is unlikely he is paying more than 29 per cent in federal taxes, and doctor provision is clearly a provincial responsibility, it shows the depth of the hole Trudeau is in. It's said that democracy is the process by which people choose who will get the blame — and the people have decided. It's all Trudeau's fault.

That's not to suggest the prime minister is not the author of his own misfortune.

He was elected on an agenda to make things more fair for people with aspirations, citizens who wanted to make their own way in life and keep more of their income.

Somewhere along the way, that definition of fairness morphed into an identity agenda to impose equality for people engaged in the

culture wars over inclusiveness, Indigenous issues and climate change — a crusade that did not heal divisions but created new ones.

Trudeau's X bio once read "Changing the world a little bit every day," but voters worried about the cost of living, housing availability and interest rates are more concerned about things closer to home.

One event that sticks out in my mind as indicative of this transition from the aspirational agenda to the identity agenda was a tweet in 2018 to comedian Trevor Noah, who was the driving force for an event in South Africa to commemorate Nelson Mandela that featured the singer Beyoncé. Trudeau thanked Noah for organizing the event: "Sorry I can't be with you but how about Canada pledges \$50 million to support education for women and girls around the world? Work for you? Let's do it."

In 154 flippant characters Trudeau portrayed himself as an impulsive, profligate friend of the stars, and made it appear as if it were a private donation (it was, in fact, part of a government foreign aid package that had been agreed months in advance).

That incident, and many other similar ones, explain why the Conservatives are now up to 20 points ahead in the polls, while 86 per cent of voters say they want a change of government, according to the most recent Abacus Data poll. The Conservatives have a solid lead in all regions and in all demographic groups. Politics can be fickle but on today's evidence, the outcome of the next election will be a Conservative win.

Yet, the exchange with the steelworker also suggests that Trudeau is not without agency. The prime minister handled a tense exchange about as well as anyone could, pointing out his government has just imposed a 25 per cent tariff on Chinese steel and saying he respects the worker's right to vote him from office. "I look forward to everyone exercising

their right to vote," he said.

Long before he won government in the 2015 election, Trudeau was elected to represent a riding in Montreal that was strongly sovereigntist, where large swaths of the electorate resented the Trudeau name. He recounted in his memoir *Common Ground*, that he soon found he had a natural affinity for retail politics, and "that up-close-and personal politicking quickened my pulse." He recognized that politics is a tactile business and he proved a disarming presence on the doorsteps of hostile voters. "My thought was 'that person is not going to vote for us but I'm not sure that person is going to vote at all now,'" recalled his then campaign manager, Louis-Alexandre Lanthier.

In the 2008 election, he was elected MP for Papineau, one of only two new Liberals in Ottawa after former leader Stéphane Dion's disastrous Green Shift campaign.

In Sault Ste. Marie, Trudeau engaged in the street-level campaigning that has worked for him in the past, and which may be his best chance of salvaging something from the next election.

Ultimately, success or failure will likely depend on Pierre Poilievre's Conservatives. The election is theirs to lose and their real enemy is triumphalism.

To be fair to Poilievre, there have been few signs of complacency or ill-discipline. When he has been in-temperate, he has been deliberately so — there is little that is not carefully thought out.

Conservative insiders say the leader, and the team around him, are obsessed with not getting ahead of themselves. "Talk about what we might do if we win is shut down pretty quickly. No one is taking anything for granted," one said.

That is just as well. The Conservative lead is large and Canadian political history has few examples of incumbents clawing back such a deficit when the demand

for a change of government is so high.

But there are warning signs the Conservatives ignore at their peril. The most recent Abacus poll from late August shows that four in 10 Conservative supporters say their vote is more about disliking Trudeau than liking Poilievre. It is hard to see what the prime minister might do to win back those voters who supported him in previous elections, but we are likely months from an election, he is a known quantity and many voters remain concerned about Poilievre's perceived "arrogance," according to the Angus Reid Institute's polling. Combined with the prospect of strategic voting by NDP, Green and Bloc supporters if Poilievre was poised to win a majority, the potential for volatility remains.

The example of the British Labour Party in 1992 is a cautionary tale of celebrating winning a general election before the vote is held.

Neil Kinnock's Labour was well ahead of John Major's Conservatives in all the polls and the party decided to hold a "mega-rally," replete with fireworks, music and tickertape at an arena in Sheffield a week before the vote.

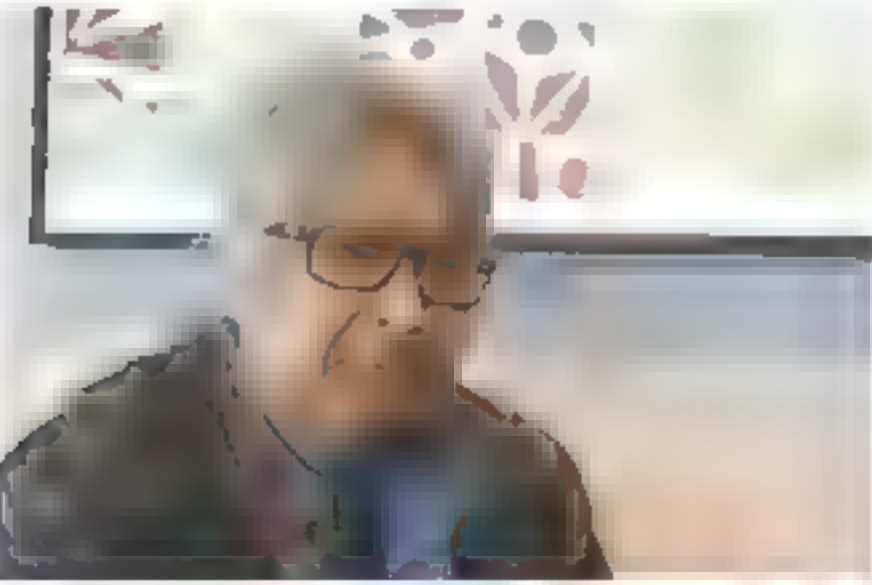
Meanwhile, Major had gone back to basics, standing on a soapbox in the drizzle, to address voters.

Pollsters and the media expected a Labour win after 13 years of Margaret Thatcher and Major. In the event, the slick mega-rally elicited more contempt than excitement, and the Conservatives won another majority.

It will take more than handing out doughnuts at the factory gates to reverse the fortunes of the Canadian Liberal party. More fundamental policy changes will be needed, starting with (at least) freezing the consumer carbon tax.

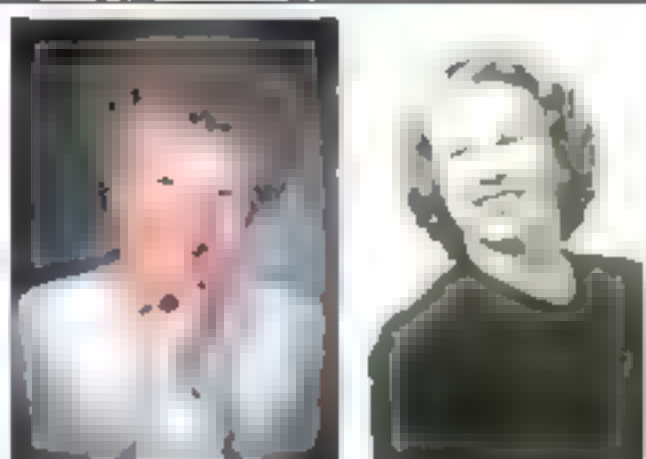
But if Trudeau is to rebuild his prospects, he has to start by going back to basics.

National Post
jivison@criffell.ca
Twitter.com/IvisonJ



An Indigenous activist's lawsuit accuses former N.W.T. premier Stephen Kakfwi, above, of sexual harassment.

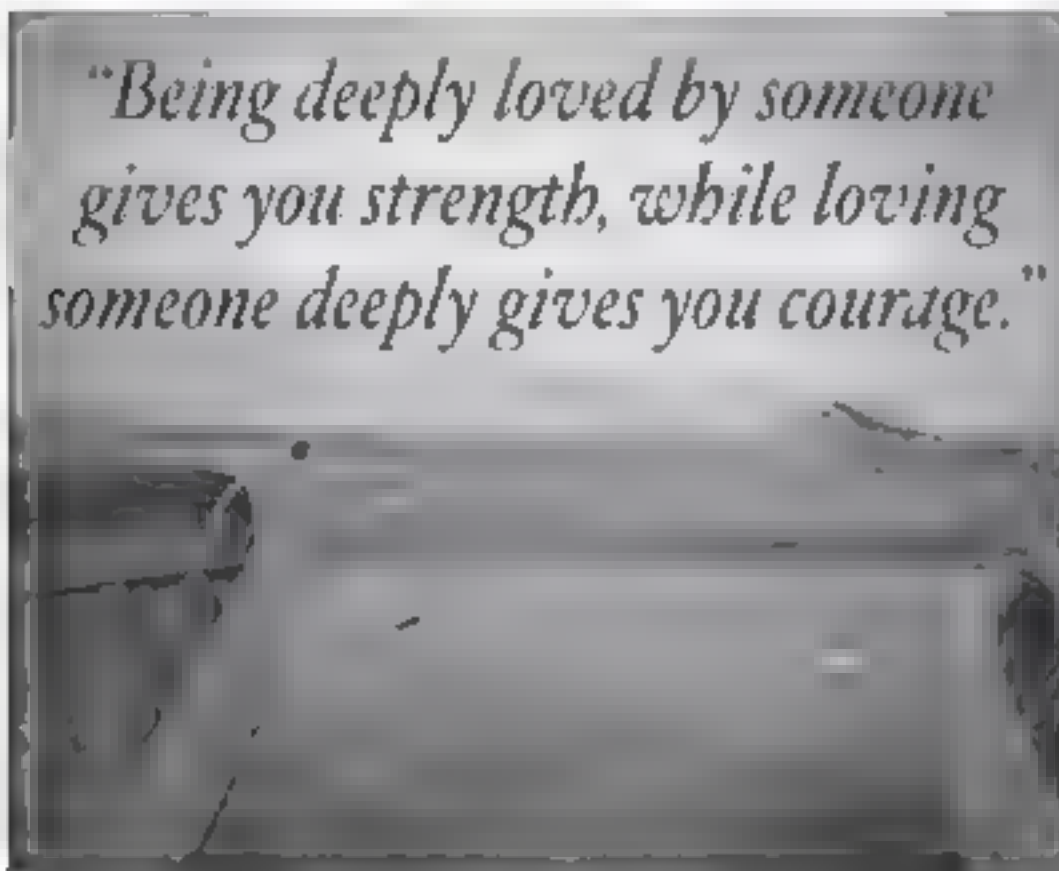
Obituaries



CAMPBELL (NEE GERLITZ), June Lilian
1931 - 2024

June Lilian Campbell (nee Gerlitz) was born at the General Hospital in 1931 when Calgary's population was just 84,000 souls. She was the third of four siblings: Irene, Shirley and Dennis. June attended Bridgeview Elementary, Langevin Junior High and Western Canada High School. When she was 18 she met the love of her life, Doug Campbell, at a friend's birthday party. They were married 2 years later and remained happily married for the next 64 years until Dad's passing. June's main tribulation in life was keeping her sons Bruce, Brent and Brian out of trouble, a task she was mostly successful at. In addition to her sons, she is survived by her grandchildren Austin, Connor and Noah. As well as her daughter-in-law Lana and her sister-in-law Norah and numerous nephews and nieces. June worked for the Royal Bank from the age of 18 until retirement and was also an avid volunteer. She sang with the St John Lutheran choir from the age of 5 until well into her 80s. She was asked to perform a number of solos and never turned them down no matter how nervous she felt singing them. She spent a lifetime of volunteering at church including a mission with LAMP to the Northwest Territories. She was the president and treasurer at the Mount Pleasant tennis club, the president of Skatstrut Outdoor club and the head timekeeper for cross-country skiing at the 1988 Olympics. The family wishes to thank the staff at Colonel Becher Retirement Home and Bethany Calgary for all the care and attention they provided in her final years. Mom's funeral will be held at Advent Lutheran Church, 11 Scenic Acres Gate N.W. Calgary, Alberta on Wednesday, September 4th at 11 am. In lieu of flowers the family asks you to make a donation to the Mustard Seed of Calgary at their website <https://theseed.ca/>. Expressions of sympathy may be forwarded to the family via the website www.lostergardenchapel.ca.

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Calgary, Alberta T2G 1P5
Tel: (403) 243-8200



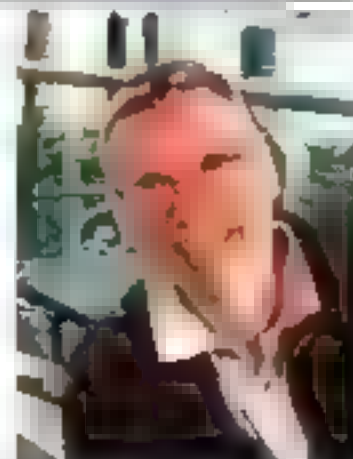
COURONNE-CULSHAW, Ena Evelyn
Dec 24, 1924 - Aug 24, 2024

Ena Couronne-Culshaw passed away peacefully on August 24, 2024 at the age of 99 years. Ena will be lovingly remembered by her two sons, Gary and Larry (Lynn) grandchildren and great-grandchildren her sister, Clara, and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her first husband, Paul Couronne in 1985, her second husband, Wes Culshaw in 2007, and her daughter-in-law Robin in 2022. Ena was born on December 24, 1924 in Shellbrook, SK. She worked in an aircraft plant in Brantford, ON during World War 2. Afterwards, she graduated from hairdressing school and then moved to Victoria, BC where she co-owned and operated a beauty salon for many years. In 1959, she married Paul, who was in the Canadian Armed Forces. After relocating to several cities, they settled in Calgary, AB in 1968, where they remained until Paul's passing. Ena married Wes Culshaw in 1990. They enjoyed camping and traveling together until his passing.

Ena had a strong Christian faith and work ethic. Her legacy of love, strength and determination will remain in the hearts of her loved ones. In accordance with Ena's wishes, no formal services will be held.

View and sign the guest book.

REMEMBERING



CRAIGAN, Allan Ramsay
Oct 17, 1962 - Aug 28, 2024

Allan Ramsay Craigan, of Calgary, AB, sadly left us on August 28th, 2024, at the age of 61.

He will be greatly missed by his sister Coleen McDonald, brother-in-law Todd and niece Spencer, all of Sherwood Park, AB. Allan was predeceased by his parents George and Joan Craigan of Calgary, AB.

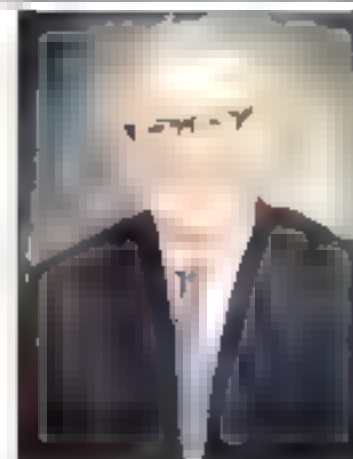
Allan was born in Calgary, AB on October 17, 1962. His family moved to Salmon Arm, BC in 1968 and later to Kamloops, BC. He returned to Calgary, AB in 1985 where he made the city his permanent home. He dedicatedly worked in the City of Calgary's mail department for 27 years and touched everyone he met with his gentle and kind manner.

Allan fought a tremendously brave battle with cancer over the past two years; he was a true inspiration of quiet strength and will remain forever in our hearts and prayers.

The family would like to thank Dr. Cynthia Card of the Tom Baker Cancer Centre in Calgary, AB, as well as Dr. Rebekah Gilbert and Jody Sager, RN, with the Alberta Health Services palliative care team.

In keeping with Allan's nature and request, there will be no memorial service. The family will hold a private inurnment at the family plot in Calgary, AB, at a later date.

If you wish to memorialize Allan, donations can be made in his name to the Alberta Cancer Foundation.



KLEPAK, Julius (Jules)
Jun 10, 1946 - Aug 30, 2024

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Julius (Jules) Klepak on August 30, 2024, surrounded by his loving family.

Jules, a cherished husband, father, father-in-law, and Gida, is survived by his wife Theresa, daughter Shauna, son-in-law Joel May, and grandchildren Easton and Isabe.

Jules had a distinguished career in masonry, founding Sas-Car Masonry in 1977 and retiring after 39 years. He was a devoted member of St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, where he also volunteered and served as an altar server.

A funeral service will be held at St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor (404 Meredith Road NE) on Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 10:00 AM, with a graveside service following at Mountain View Memorial Gardens.

DYER, William Robinson
Dec 2, 1934 - Aug 30, 2024

William Dyer of Calgary, AB, passed away on Friday, August 30, 2024, at the age of 89 years. Condolences, memories, and photos may be shared and viewed with William's family at www.MHFH.com.

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403-243-8200

Thinking of you always!



"What barrier is there that love cannot break?"

~ Mahatma Gandhi

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Joel Fagliano

No. 0730

ACROSS

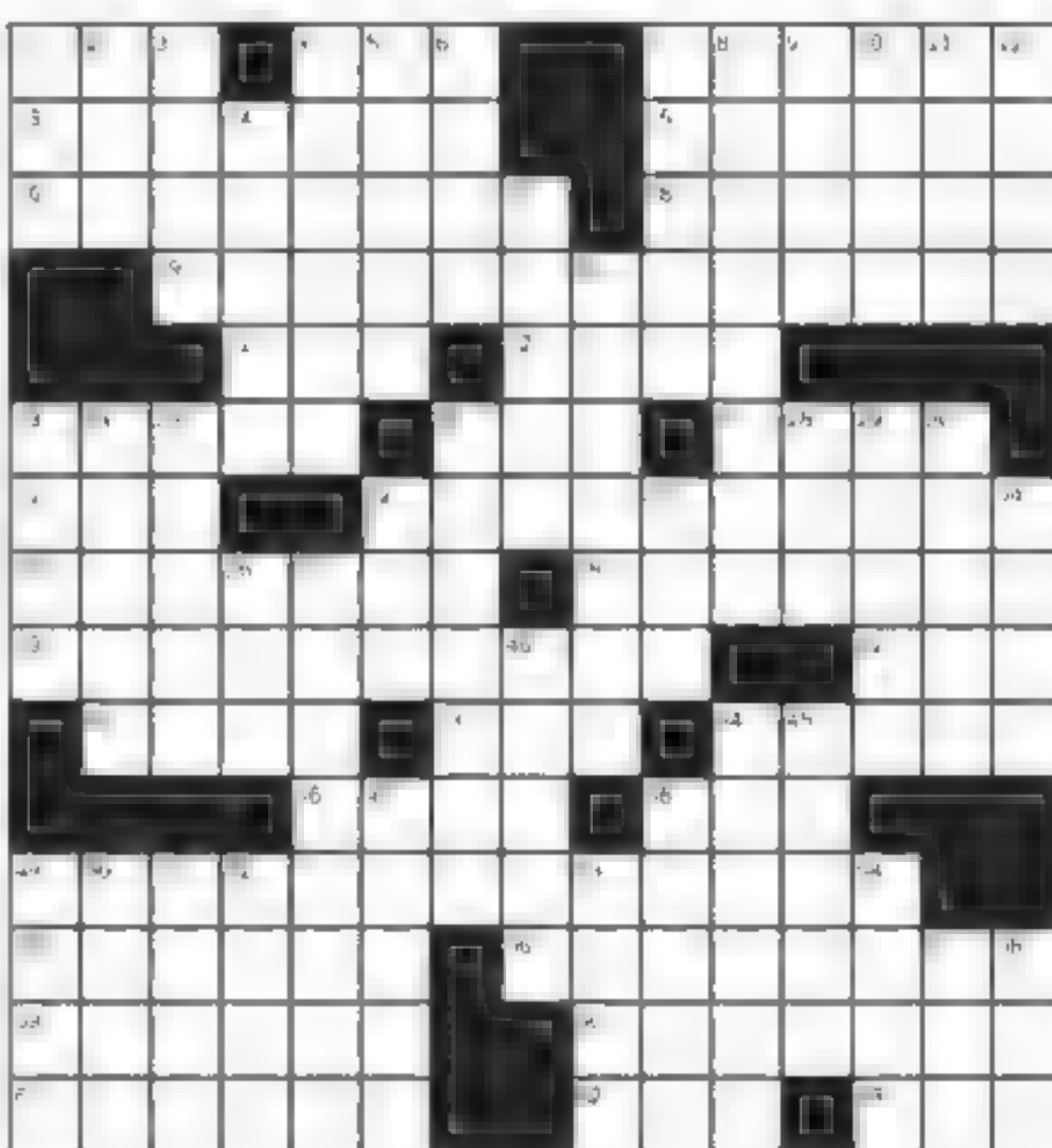
- 1 Option : Mac :: : PC
- 4 Voodoo Ranger, e.g., for short
- 7 Kahlo or Kandinsky
- 13 Pick up again
- 15 Apartment sharer, informally
- 16 Restaurant handout that might come with crayons
- 18 Geologic layers
- 19 "And in this corner ..." speaker
- 21 Sticky stuff
- 22 Teller's partner in magic
- 23 "U.S.A.! U.S.A.!", e.g.
- 26 Seven on a sundial
- 27 Morse code component

- 31 Cartoon frame
- 32 Use non-lead pipes?
- 35 Something seen in a bubble above a cartoon head
- 36 In a speedy way
- 39 Actor who plays Luther Stickell in the "Mission: Impossible" franchise
- 41 Piece of corn
- 42 Uber- relative
- 43 "Spy vs. Spy" magazine
- 44 Like some gods in the Marvel Universe
- 46 Dreidel turn
- 48 Text of appreciation
- 49 Projectiles tossed into cups of beer, in a drinking game
- 55 End of a threat

- 56 Points collected for flying
- 59 Pep rally cry
- 60 Acknowledging an invitation or a hint to the starts of 19-, 32-, 39- and 49-Across
- 61 Beginnings
- 62 Dramatic salsa move
- 63 Morse code component

DOWN

- 1 Noah's craft
- 2 Gift with flowers
- 3 "To recap," in an internet initialism
- 4 Indignant denial
- 5 Pasta sauce brand
- 6 Soprano Netrebko
- 7 Fire-setting crime
- 8 Features of the U.S. Capitol and Rome's Pantheon
- 9 Experiencing a dilemma
- 10 Big Apple?
- 11 Collection of web pages
- 12 Start to cry with "up"
- 14 Endorse digitally
- 17 Remove from a bulletin board
- 20 Called to a court, say
- 23 Security camera mints.



PUZZLE BY JEFFREY MARTINOVIC AND WILL NEDIGER

- 24 Masculine pronoun pair
- 25 How an introvert likes to spend time
- 26 A, B, C, D, E or K
- 28 Play division
- 29 Winter lift rider
- 30 Hawaiian dances
- 32 "Don't say a word"
- 33 Some undergrad degs
- 34 Ritualistic bonfire
- 36 Fashion brand founded by an Australian surfer
- 37 Tries to seize
- 40 Japanese comics
- 44 Hart Memorial Trophy recipient, for short
- 45 Yellow primrose
- 47 Sonnets and such
- 48 Ankle bones
- 49 ___ stick
- 50 Most of the earth's core
- 51 Brooklyn squad
- 52 Flat on
- 53 Ornithologist's interest
- 54 Used a fire pole
- 57 Ambient musician Brian
- 58 Three stripes in the Army: Abbr.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

C	D	C	B	A	N	G	U	P	F	R	O
R	I	O	E	S	C	A	P	E	L	A	O
E	N	O	U	G	H	I	S	E	N	O	U
E	E	L	S	E	S	P	N	Z	E	U	S
P	R	E	E	N	D	N	A				
S	O	R	R	Y	N	O	T	S	O	R	R
I	C	A	M	E	S	K	I	E	S		
H	E	R	D	S	A	R	A	H	S	A	P
I	D	O	P	A	N	E	L	O	K	R	A
M	E	L	E	E	I	S	L	A	M		
N	E	V	E	R	S	A	Y	N	E	V	E
L	E	R	E			A	L	E	V	E	
S	P	I	N	D	A	N	A	E	N	O	S
L	I	T	T	L	E	B	Y	L	I	T	T
A	T	E	A	Y	E	S	I	R	E	V	A
B	A	M	D	E	L	E	T	E	D	E	L

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PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS



ARND BRONKHORST - AP/WIDE WORLD

The Columbus Blue Jackets' Johnny Gaudreau and his brother, Matthew, were killed Thursday after being struck by a motorist in New Jersey.

DRIVER CHARGED IN GAUDREAU'S DEATH IN CUSTODY

APPEARS IN COURT

NHLer, brother were riding bikes before crash

The suspected drunk driver who struck and killed former Calgary Flames player Johnny Gaudreau and his brother, Matthew, is being held in custody until he returns to court on Thursday.

Police identified the suspect as 43-year-old Sean M. Higgins of Woodstown, N.J.

He was arrested and charged Friday with two counts of death by auto, reckless driving, possession of an open container and consuming alcohol in a motor vehicle.

Higgins, who is married and has two daughters, was working at a rehab centre in Pennsylvania as a financial officer, the New York Post reported. He has since been placed on leave. The Gaudenzia Addiction Treatment and Recovery Centers told the newspaper in a statement Saturday.

"We received the heart-breaking news regarding the tragic crash that took the lives of Johnny and Matthew Gaudreau, along with charges brought against Sean Higgins," said the statement. "Mr. Higgins, an employee of Gaudenzia, was immediately placed on leave."

The LinkedIn profile of a man of the same name, who worked at the centre as a financial officer, said he had been a member of the New Jersey Army National Guard. Gaudreau, 31, and his younger brother, Matt, 29, were killed Thursday night when they were struck while they were riding bikes in Oldmans Township close to their southern New Jersey hometown of Carneys Point.

The men were supposed to serve as groomsmen at their sister Katie's wedding, which was scheduled for Friday in

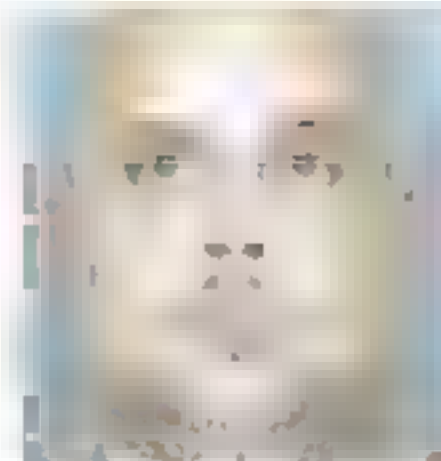
Philadelphia. The wedding was called off.

"Despite losing you, I am still the luckiest girl in the world to have been yours," Johnny's wife, Meredith, said in a post Saturday that was accompanied by several photos of the couple. "I love you so, so much. You were perfect. Some days it felt too good to be true. I love every single thing about you. You are my forever and I can't wait to be with you again."

The couple have two young children.

Known as "Johnny Hockey," Gaudreau played 10 full seasons in the NHL and was set to enter his third with the Columbus Blue Jackets after signing a seven-year, US\$68-million deal in 2022. He played his first eight seasons with the Calgary Flames.

"The boys grew up here," said Wayne Pereira, a Carneys Point Township committee



Sean M. Higgins

ing alcoholic beverages in a motor vehicle, having an open alcoholic beverage in a vehicle, improper passing, and executing an unsafe lane change, the Columbus Dispatch reported.

Higgins allegedly told an officer who responded to the scene last Thursday that he had five or six beers before the collision and said he had consumed alcohol while driving, according to the criminal complaint, obtained by The Associated Press.

According to authorities, Higgins was driving a Jeep Grand Cherokee and was northbound on County Road 551 at around 8:19 p.m. on Thursday. The Jeep tried to go around a "slow-moving sedan and SUV," The Columbus Dispatch reported, entering the southbound lanes.

The Jeep got in front of the sedan and "tried to re-enter the northbound lanes when the SUV in front of him moved to the middle of the roadway, splitting the north and south lanes to safely pass the Gaudreau brothers travelling north on the right side of the roadway."

The Jeep struck the Gaudreau brothers while trying to pass the SUV on the right, the Dispatch said.

Higgins remained at the scene after the collision, it said in the criminal complaint, the Dispatch reported.

He told officers he believed "his drinking had led to his impatience and reckless driving that resulted in the crash," the Dispatch said, quoting from the criminal complaint.

National Post news services

EVERYBODY KNOWS THEM ... IT'S JUST A SAD, SAD SITUATION.

member. "They were involved in youth sports here. Everybody knows them. Everybody knows the sisters. It's just a sad, sad situation."

Higgins appeared virtually in court in Salem County on Friday and was ordered to remain in custody until his next court date, according to the New York Post.

During the proceedings, he asked Judge Michael J. Silvano, "So ... I'm here until Thursday?" the New York Post reported. Due to the long weekend, the regular 72-hour hold had been extended, said the judge.

According to court records, Higgins had multiple traffic violations, including operating under the influence of liquor or drugs, reckless driving, consum-

BoC likely to cut rate this week, with signs more to come

JORDAN GOWLING

The Bank of Canada is widely expected to cut its policy rate by 25 basis points on Wednesday and there are few indications that it will stop there, economists say.

A quarter-point cut this week would be the third in a row and bring the overnight rate down to 4.25 per cent. Wednesday's decision comes as the central bank has signalled a more dovish tone in recent months, with economists predicting cuts at every meeting for the remainder of the year and into 2025.

"I don't think they'll signal that's the end of the road; I think they'll maintain openness to continuing to do more," said Beata Caranci, chief economist at Toronto-Dominion Bank. "But in typical bank speak, I would expect they'll continue to indicate they are data dependent and watching how the data evolves."

The consumer price index hit 2.5 per cent in July, its slowest pace in nearly three years. The Bank of Canada has forecast inflation will return to its two per cent target by the end of next year.

"The last CPI print, when we looked purely at the number of components, nearly 50 per cent were growing at less than one per cent, so that's pretty



Tiff Macklem

significant," said Jimmy Jean, chief economist at The Desjardins Group. "The story about inflation and why it's still at two and half per cent, is largely about housing and it's largely about rents in particular."

Jean says no amount of monetary policy tightening can have an impact on housing, given it's a supply and demand issue.

Following the central bank's policy rate announcement in July, Bank of Canada Governor Tiff Macklem said the central bank's "balance of risks is shifting," meaning as inflation moves back to target, the bank is paying more attention to the downside risks to inflation and the economy.

Financial Post

"I don't think (the BoC will) signal that's the end of the road; I think they'll maintain openness to continuing to do more. But in typical bank speak, I would expect they'll continue to indicate they are data dependent."
— Beata Caranci, chief economist, TD Bank



Housing strategies in both the U.S. and Canada appear remarkably similar. In politically charged environments, public policy can often fall prey to political expediency. FREDERIC J. BROWN/APP VIA GETTY IMAGES

COMMENT

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL RACE GIVES RISE TO DUBIOUS HOUSING POLICIES

As Canada heads to polls in coming year, Canadians should watch out for same here

MURTASA HAIDER
and STEPHEN MORANIS

Tight election races often give rise to questionable economic policies. In the fiercely contested U.S. presidential election, the Democrats have addressed housing concerns in key swing states by promising to improve housing affordability. However, some of their proposals, such as rent caps, risk exacerbating the very problem they aim to solve.

As in Canada, housing prices and rents in the United States have outpaced income growth. Another notable similarity between the two countries is the severe lack of housing supply, with some U.S. estimates indicating a shortfall of three million homes. Kamala Harris, the Democratic presidential nominee, has unveiled a buffet of interventions as part of her housing plan, with some focused on accelerating supply and others on curbing prices and rents.

The housing strategies on both sides of the 49th parallel appear remarkably similar. Cash benefits and tax credits for first-time homebuyers, tax incentives for builders to construct affordable housing, and the provision of

federal surplus land for residential development are just a few examples of the nearly identical incentives deployed in the U.S. and Canada to tackle housing affordability.

Harris's plan also includes capping rent increases at five per cent, a concept she adopted from President Joe Biden during his re-election campaign. Despite a wealth of empirical evidence showing that rent controls often fail and can even exacerbate affordability issues for those not living in rent-controlled units, such measures frequently resurface during closely contested races. The plan targets large landlords who own more than 50 residential dwellings.

The Biden proposal for rent caps required congressional approval, and experts believe it is unlikely to pass through Congress. However, even if it doesn't, the plan's mere introduction signals the government's intent, suggesting that such measures could eventually be implemented in politically favourable circumstances.

Rent caps have resonated with Harris since at least 2019. As reported by Vox, Harris tweeted her support for Oregon after the state enacted a statewide rent

control measure. As a Senator, she also backed legislation that promised tax relief for households burdened by excessive shelter costs.

Housing affordability has been a growing concern for many Americans. According to the Pew Research Center, by 2021, half of Americans cited housing as a significant problem, a 10 percentage point increase from just three years earlier. Young Americans are particularly affected, with 70 per cent believing that younger generations face greater challenges in buying a home than their parents. Unsurprisingly, housing is becoming a prominent issue in the presidential elections.

"Canada's housing policy must be ... committed to providing safe, secure, and affordable shelter for those currently priced out of the market."

The severity of housing challenges demands a thoughtful and effective policy response that provides immediate relief and sustainable long-term solutions. Yet, in politically charged environments, public policy often falls prey to political expediency, resulting in implementing measures that may be more popular than practical — rent control being one such intervention.

The evidence against rent control is extensive and well-documented. In August, Konstantin A. Kholodilin, a senior researcher at the German Institute for Economic Research, published what he described as the "most comprehensive review of the rent control literature encompassing the period between 1967 and 2024."

Kholodilin examined 206 studies on the subject, and his review found that while rent control can benefit those already living in rent-regulated units, it often leads to a range of unintended consequences. These include stifling new housing supply, reducing labour mobility, and pushing up rents in unregulated markets, ultimately making the housing crisis worse rather than better.

Canada is experiencing a heated political climate as Pierre Poilievre, leader of the opposition, pushes government coalition partners to break ranks, potentially setting the stage for a federal election. In the event a writ is dropped, populist measures could quickly emerge.

Recently, the Liberal government in Ottawa unveiled a plan to sell or lease 56 federally owned properties to developers for constructing affordable housing. While increasing the supply of affordable housing is a well-supported strategy, evidence shows that it is only part of the solution. Reducing exorbitant municipal development charges and speeding up sluggish approval timelines would significantly boost the construction of homes that Canadians can afford.

Canada's housing policy must be driven by evidence and sound research. It must also be committed to providing safe, secure, and affordable shelter for those currently priced out of the market. This means governments need to invest more in non-market, social housing.

However, introducing rent controls in the private market shifts the burden from governments to private enterprises. History shows that such policies offer limited benefits and tend to create more problems over the long term. As Canada heads to the polls in the coming year, Canadians should keep an eye out for dubious policy proposals.

Financial Post
Murtaza Haider is the associate dean of graduate programs and the director of Urban Analytics Institute at the Ted Rogers School of Management, Toronto Metropolitan University. Stephen Moranis is a real estate industry veteran. They can be reached at the Haider-Moranis Bulletin website, www.hmbulletin.com.

Amazon aims to launch delayed AI Alexa subscription in October

CAROLINE O'DONOVAN

Amazon is preparing to launch its delayed overhaul of personal voice assistant Alexa in October, according to internal documents obtained by The Washington Post, as it faces new competition from artificial intelligence voice assistants from rivals.

Access to the upgraded version of the assistant will require a paid subscription, the documents said.

The release, scheduled to occur just weeks before the presidential

election, will include a new "Smart Briefing" feature that provides daily, AI-generated summaries of news articles selected based on a customer's preferences, the documents said.

Alexa has previously struggled to accurately answer questions about political news events, such as who won the 2020 U.S. presidential election. Rival tech companies, including Microsoft and Google, have programmed their own AI chatbots Copilot and Gemini to decline to answer questions about

politics, in light of concerns about misinformation in a year of consequential global elections.

But Amazon documents said that "AI features that help customers curate, summarize, and explore current events was also rated as one of the top customer requests."

News summaries can create a daily habit and drive "recurrent engagement," according to the internal communications, used to track progress ahead of product launches.

A subscription to the new assistant could cost as much as US\$10 a month, the documents said, but the original version, referred to as "classic Alexa," will remain free to use.

The company declined to comment on this story. (Amazon founder Jeff Bezos owns The Post.)

No markets page today: The daily stock markets listings will return tomorrow.

TWO PARA BRONZE FOR CANADA

Canada's Leanne Taylor and Austin Smeenk won bronze medals at the Paralympic Games in Paris on Monday. Winnipeg's Taylor, 32, right, finished third in the women's wheelchair triathlon behind victor Lauren Parker of Australia and silver medalist Kendall Gretsck of the United States. Wheelchair racer Smeenk, 27, of Oakville, Ont., was third in the men's 100 metres for the first Paralympic medal of his career. Smeenk



is the world-record holder in the 800 metres, and will race the heat in the event Friday. Smeenk was born with a hereditary form of paraplegia that causes stiffness in the lower limbs. Taylor made her Paralympic debut in Paris. She was paralyzed from the waist down in a mountain bike crash five years ago. The para triathlon event had to be rescheduled because of water quality issues in the Seine River. The Canadian Press

Kimmich 'logical' choice as Germany's new captain

BERLIN Bayern Munich midfielder Joshua Kimmich was appointed captain of Germany's national team Monday after his predecessor Ilkay Gundogan was among a string of senior players to retire from international duty after Euro 2024.

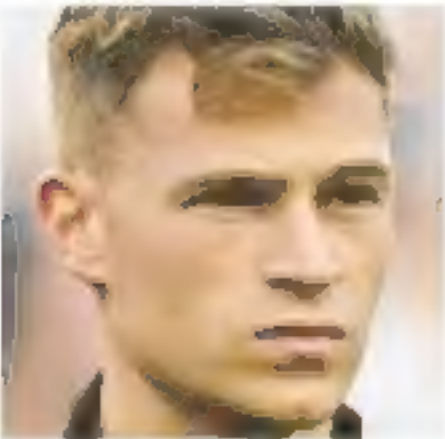
Kimmich will be backed up by two vice-captains, Real Madrid defender Antonio Rudiger and Arsenal forward Kai Havertz, when he takes up the captaincy for upcoming Nations League games against Hungary on Saturday and the Netherlands on Sept. 10.

Kimmich, 29, hasn't been the permanent captain for Bayern or the national team before, but he has often stepped into the role when other players have been injured or unavailable. He last started a Germany game as captain in friendlies last year.

The German soccer federation said Monday that Kimmich had worn the captain's arm band 17 times in a career spanning 91 international games. That total appeared to include games in which Kimmich took over the captaincy when another player was substituted.

Gundogan was named captain by then-coach Hansi Flick last year ahead of Germany playing host to Euro 2024, when the team reached the quarterfinals before losing to eventual champion Spain. He retired from international duty last month ahead of a return from Barcelona to Manchester City.

Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann said Kimmich was the



Joshua Kimmich

"logical successor" to Gundogan as captain.

Other players who have retired from the national team since Euro 2024 include goalkeeper Manuel Neuer and forward Thomas Muller, both teammates of Kimmich at Bayern. Midfielder Toni Kroos retired from all soccer following the tournament.

Also Monday, Nagelsmann confirmed he sees Barcelona's Marc-Andre ter Stegen as Germany's new starting goalkeeper in place of Neuer as Germany plans for the 2026 World Cup.

The Associated Press



A Paralympic Games volunteer holds signs reading "Silence s'il-vous-plait, Quiet Please" during a men's goalball game between the U.S. and France on Saturday. Blind football and goalball require spectators to be silent so players can hear audible cues. FELIX SCHYTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

When to stay silent or 'GET LOUD!'

Fans at Paralympics learning subtleties of cheering at blind football, goalball

JULIANNA RUSS and GABRIELLA ETIENNE

PARIS A soft voice from the loud-speaker reminds the restless crowd: "Shhh. Shhh."

The whistle blows.

Suddenly, spectators fall silent and even the slightest noise echoes through the Eiffel Tower Stadium. Fans pack the stadium, but at times, it is hard to tell. This type of ambience is unthinkable in most sports venues, but especially in a sport like soccer, whose fans are perhaps best known for rowdiness.

But this isn't ordinary soccer. This is blind football, one of two silent sports at the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games.

Blind football and goalball are for athletes with visual impairments. When sensory input is reduced in one area, other senses pick up the slack; without sight, sound takes centre stage.

The ball in both sports contains a rattle or bell alerting players to its approximate location. Players yell out to each other as they navigate

the field and fans are required to contain their excitement until the ball is out of play. Both sports cultivate an environment unlike any other. Without constant chatter and chanting, fans' energy manifests as a steady focus on the field of play.

Jeferson "Jefinho" Goncalves, Brazil's star blind football player, said through a translator that he and his teammates felt the crowd is also into the game and reacting to every moment, and that they felt the energy on the court.

French fan Jade Sidot, 18, said blind football demands a different degree of attention.

"My dad and I go to some football games," said Sidot, referring to her experiences at able-bodied games. "(Blind football) is very different, but at the same time I am more focused."

Fans not used to these sports may feel awkward navigating the new rules. To ease the tension, a goalball commentator lets fans know they are allowed to speak: "Noise." A bit apprehensive at first,

the crowd slowly increases their volume to cheer.

During halftime and between important plays, a runner takes to the blind football field with a large sign that explicitly reads "GET LOUD!!!!" Usually, cues like this build momentum among spectators who are already cheering. Here, they're truly instructions.

Even with the official go-ahead, some new fans let their patriotism override decorum while others sit confused.

"It's kind of funny because I think people in the stands are afraid, they don't know when to cheer, but I know the game," said Eliana Mason, a Paralympic goalball player who frequently supports her fiancé, fellow Paralympian and goalball player Calahan Young, at his matches. "It's silent, I'll be like, 'Let's go!' People look at me and I'm like, it's fine, I know when I can cheer and not cheer."

In those moments when cheering is allowed, it is thunderous. Spectators from the Netherlands agreed that when it happens, the applause is much louder than in non-silent sports.

"I have the idea that you are with them in the game when they score," said Dutch fan Jamie Koudijs, 23,

who was attending his first silent sports event. "We all go crazy, like, you did it! Because they can't see what they are doing."

That back-and-forth dynamic can also distract competitors. Jefinho expressed that it can be difficult to go get the ball if the crowd fails to "shhh" at the right time, but he also said he is optimistic that these problems will go away as blind football grows in popularity.

Jefinho said that as more and more people get used to blind soccer, the crowd will get used to the noise rules and learn the environment.

One element that fans come back to, again and again, is that they feel their silence equates to respect — not only to the players, but to the sports themselves.

"It's different how they act and how they respect the players," Brazilian fan Joaquim Mendes, 15, said of fans in the Eiffel Tower Stadium. He attended a blind football game between Brazil and Turkey, which Brazil won 3-0.

"I think the energy is the same," added Sidot, who attended the same game. "Even though we have to stay silent, I can feel that people are still really excited to be here."

The Associated Press

No dip in ambitions for cash-rich Saudi soccer league

RIYADH Despite a relatively quiet transfer window in Saudi Arabia, the arrival of Ivan Toney and Joao Cancelo shows that the ambitions of the cash-rich Saudi Pro League remain as high as ever, according to league CEO Omar Mugharbel.

August ended with Al-Ahli of Jeddah paying London club Brentford a reported US\$44 million for Toney on Friday, three days after Premier League champion Manchester City sold Cancelo to Riyadh's Al-Hilal.

"This is only the beginning with more transfers on the pitch and

more development off the pitch," Mugharbel said as the SPL summer transfer window ended Monday.

Still, the amount spent by the 18 SPL clubs in this transfer window is expected to only be about a third of what they splashed out last summer, when they went on a US\$957 million shopping spree that resulted in huge stars such as Karim Benzema, N'Golo Kante, Neymar and Riyad Mahrez joining Cristiano Ronaldo — who signed with Al-Nassr in December 2022.

No such megastars joined this

time, with players such as Liverpool's Mohamed Salah and Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior opting to stay at their European clubs.

Until Toney arrived, the most significant signing was Al-Ittihad paying \$60 million to Aston Villa for French winger Moussa Diaby.

"The reality is that there have been a lot of signings this summer but maybe not the ones that the media are most interested in," said Mugharbel, who became CEO in January.

One reason for the relative lack

of big deals is that many clubs already had their full quota of foreign players. Each SPL team is limited to 10 imports, of which two must be 21 or under. With most of the top stars staying at their clubs, space for new signings has been limited.

Defending champion Al-Hilal had to offload Brazilian attacker Michael Delgado in order to bring in Cancelo. According to domestic reports, Al-Nassr released former Manchester United defender Alex Telles on Sunday ahead of signing a replacement on Monday.



Ivan Toney

The most active club in the transfer market has been newly promoted Al-Qadsiah. Backed by Saudi oil giant Aramco, the club from the eastern city of Al-Khobar has made a number of signings.

The Associated Press



Blue Jays starting pitcher Bowden Francis flirted with a no-hitter twice in his last four starts, during which he recorded a 1.05 ERA and 39 strikeouts over 34.1 innings of work. The 28-year-old righty has been one of the bright spots in Toronto's season. STEVEN SENNE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IT COULD STILL BE A SEPTEMBER TO REMEMBER FOR BLUE JAYS

Playoff hopes are long dead, but there are other reasons to keep tabs on team



ROB LONGLEY
Toronto

When September baseball turns meaningless — as difficult as that is to do with a competently constructed team in these days of Major League Baseball's expanded post-season — fan interest wanes.

How could it not? The behemoth fan experience that is the NFL starts, the kids are back to school and, as it pertains to the Blue Jays, next thing you know NHL training camps start.

So what's in it for Jays fans for the remaining 23 contests of a season long ago gone nowhere? About the same as what you've seen the past month — a bunch of motivated young players auditioning for a future in the organization via playing opportunity in pressure-free situations.

It's far from ideal for a fan base that has been building in frustration for three seasons now and wearying of the hollow promises of an under-delivering front office. Enjoy those getting an opportunity to play, sure, just don't read too much into what you see — good or bad.

As always in baseball, there's plenty to pay attention to, even

if there isn't enough to salvage a season that has turned sour.

Our look at what awaits for the play-out-the-string Jays:

DREAMING OF .500?

Dare to dream, I suppose.

While it's not out of the question and an admirable target, with a record of 67-72 following an August that was the team's only winning month of the season, getting to .500 is far from guaranteed.

The Jays would have to go 14-9 to reach the level mark, which means they'll have to be better than the mostly credible 16-12 record they compiled in August, albeit one bloated by a 7-0 record against the miserable Los Angeles Angels.

Though the team has been on the track for a sub-.500 season for months, it's still difficult to stomach for a fan base promised much better from a team that recorded 89, 92 and 91 wins the previous three seasons, respectively.

The first 11 of the remaining games are against teams that currently have winning records, including a pair against the NL East-leading Phillies beginning today at the dome.

TRACKING VLAD

After a rest day on Sunday in Minnesota and an off day Monday, can Vlad Guerrero Jr. be set to launch into the closing stretch and finish one of the better

statistical seasons of his career? With 27 home runs, Guerrero is well within range to surpass the 32 he banged out in 2022, a total that still would be well below the mammoth 2021 output of 48, but would be the second most of his career.

Guerrero, who has spent much of the summer hitting as well as he has in his career, has 89 RBIs so far, giving him a shot at surpassing his career best of 111 (in 2021) and in line to easily cruise past the 94 of last season.

And perhaps indicative of the current success, with just 83 strikeouts Guerrero could finish with a single-season low in that department (100 in 2023).

In a broader sense, it will be difficult not to think of the next 12 months with Guerrero, the player who has been the cornerstone of the franchise since he broke into the major leagues in 2019. So much of the next 12 months will be about Vlad's future and Jays ownership's willingness to push hard for a long-term deal for the 25-year-old superstar.

WHO NEEDS TICKETS?

The marketing department will be working overtime to fill seats at Rogers Centre for the 14 home dates in September, traditionally a softer-selling month for the team regardless of form.

Wednesday's matinee against the Phillies looks like it will be a season low and there are some other light-looking dates as well. Tuesday's opener of the mini two-game set doesn't look much better, even with that timeless allure of \$1 hotdogs. This is no

surprise, of course, given that the summer months are the big attraction dates and September often relies on the prospect of a playoff push to fill the seats.

Zooming out, what will be of greater interest is how the fallout of a disappointing season affects advance ticket sales for 2025. Will a restless fan base adopt a wait-and-see approach before they pay elevated prices for a downward trending team?

Meanwhile, a scheduling oddity may not exactly help sales for the remainder of this season. Four of the five home opponents are National League foes, including a season-ending three-game set against the 51-win Miami Marlins, a team even family members may be reluctant to watch in person these days.

FUTURE ACE?

Other than Guerrero's fabulous summer, the late-season sensation of Bowden Francis has been one of the best feel-good stories on a team that has needed it.

The four-game stretch of Francis — that twice included flirtation with a no-hitter — has been remarkable as he compiled a 1.05 ERA in August and dealt 39 strikeouts in his 34 1/3 innings of work. As much as Jays fans (and management) would like to see Francis duplicate his amazing August — and who knows, he might — it will also be interesting to see how he rebounds the next time he struggles. Francis has come a long way since the start of the season and is one of the legit excellent developments with the team in 2024.

rlongley@postmedia.com

MLB NOTES

Padres' Merrill surging in NL Rookie of the Year race

NOAH TRISTER

At the all-star break, the one award race that seemed like it might be over was for National League Rookie of the Year.

Not so fast.

A terrific month of August has helped San Diego outfielder Jackson Merrill emerge as the new favourite for the honour, displacing Pittsburgh right-hander Paul Skenes.

The flip in the betting odds has been dramatic. Skenes was a -1200 favourite at the break, according to BetMGM Sportsbook. Now it's Merrill who is the pick at -800.

It's not as though Skenes has done anything to lose the award. The 2023 No. 1 overall draft pick is 8-2 with a 2.23 ERA and a 0.95 WHIP. The last-place Pirates aren't pushing him overly hard, but they haven't shut him down, either, and it was perfectly reasonable to consider him a huge favourite for Rookie of the Year back in mid-July.

But Merrill, who unlike Skenes has spent the whole season in the big leagues, has made a huge push for a surging San Diego team that is now in wild-card position. In August, he hit .303 with seven home runs and a .969 OPS. After homering again on the first day of September, Merrill is batting .289 with 21 home runs and 79 RBIs.



Jackson Merrill

Skenes still has a solid lead over Merrill in Baseball Reference's version of wins above replacement, but Merrill is ahead in the FanGraphs version.

What's remarkable is that the other major awards have basically held to form. The favourites at the all-star break — Aaron Judge and Shohei Ohtani for MVP, Tarik Skubal and Chris Sale for Cy Young — are still the favourites.

LINE OF THE WEEK

Houston's Yordan Alvarez hit three home runs in a 10-0 win over Philadelphia on Wednesday. Alvarez also rapped out a single, which gives him the nod over Lawrence Butler's three-homer game the following day for Oakland.

If those were the best statistical lines of the week, the most unique one went to catcher Danny Jansen, who on Monday became the first player in big league history to play for both teams in the same game. Boston and Toronto resumed a game that had been suspended in June. Jansen was actually at the plate for the Blue Jays when the game was halted by rain. He was traded to Boston in late July.

When the game finally resumed at Fenway Park, the Red Sox put Jansen in at catcher — as the Blue Jays sent a replacement hitter to finish the plate appearance Jansen had started a couple months earlier. Jansen went 1-for-4 for the Red Sox in a 4-1 loss.

COMEBACK OF THE WEEK

Skenes pitched five innings Wednesday against the Cubs and exited with his team ahead 10-3. Then Chicago came storming back.

Christian Bethancourt hit a two-run homer in the seventh and a two-run double in the eighth. Then he scored on Ian Happ's single to make it 10-8.

After Dansby Swanson's bases-loaded grounder in the ninth brought in another run, Chicago trailed by just one but was down to its last out. After an intentional walk reloaded the bases, Bethancourt came through again, hitting a two-run single that gave the Cubs the lead.

After three more RBI singles, Chicago closed out a 14-10 victory. Chicago has won nine of its last 10, scoring 99 runs in that span. The Cubs are just three games out of a playoff spot.

The Associated Press

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB	Central	W	L	Pct	GB	West	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	79	58	.577	—	Cleveland	79	59	.572	—	Houston	75	63	.543	—
Baltimore	80	59	.576	—	Minnesota	74	62	.544	4	Seattle	69	68	.504	9.5
Boston	70	67	.511	9	Kansas City	75	64	.540	4.5	Texas	65	72	.474	9.5
Tampa Bay	67	69	.493	11.5	Detroit	70	68	.507	9	Oakland	59	78	.431	15.5
Toronto	67	72	.482	13	Chicago	63	108	.223	48.5	Los Angeles	57	80	.416	17.5

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB	Central	W	L	Pct	GB	West	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	81	56	.591	—	Milwaukee	81	57	.587	—	Los Angeles	83	55	.601	—
Atlanta	74	63	.540	7	Chicago	71	66	.518	9.5	San Diego	78	61	.561	5.5
New York	73	64	.533	8	St. Louis	69	69	.500	12	Arizona	77	63	.558	6
Washington	61	76	.445	20	Cincinnati	66	73	.475	15.5	San Francisco	68	70	.493	15
Miami	51	86	.372	30	Pittsburgh	63	73	.463	17	Colorado	51	87	.370	32

CFL STANDINGS

East	W	L	T	F	A	P	Week 13
Montreal	11	10	1	0	309	232	20
Ottawa	11	7	3	1	273	283	15
Toronto	11	6	5	0	304	284	12
Hamilton	12	3	9	0	310	388	6
West	W	L	T	F	A	P	
Winnipeg	12	6	6	0	269	253	12
British Columbia	12	6	6	0	298	294	12
Saskatchewan	12	5	6	1	312	304	11
Calgary	11	4	7	0	266	325	8
Edmonton	12	4	8	0	345	326	8

Monday's results
Hamilton 31 Toronto 28
Edmonton 35 at Calgary 20

Sunday's result
Winnipeg 35 Saskatchewan 33

Saturday's result
(in Victoria)
British Columbia 38 Ottawa 12

GARFIELD



BIG NATE



PEANUTS



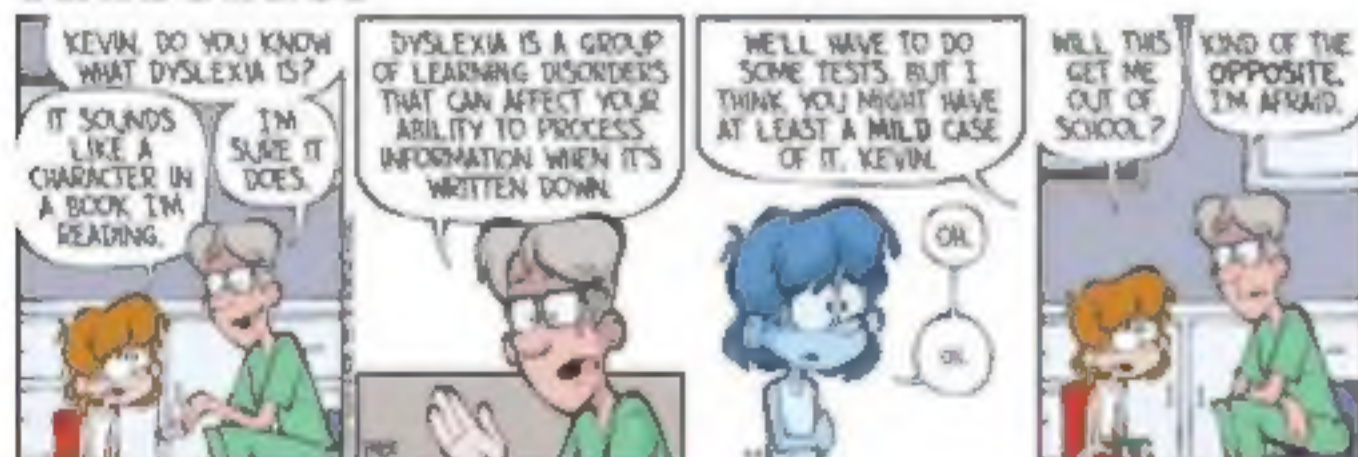
BABY BLUES



PICKLES



CRABGRASS



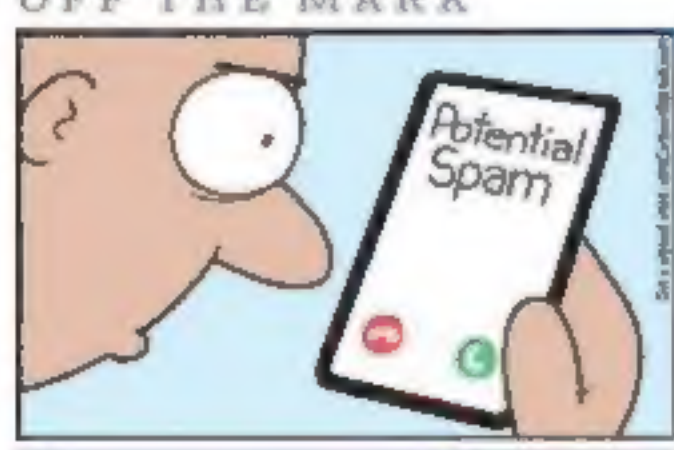
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



ROSE IS ROSE



OFF THE MARK



THE ARGYLE SWEATER



CORNERED



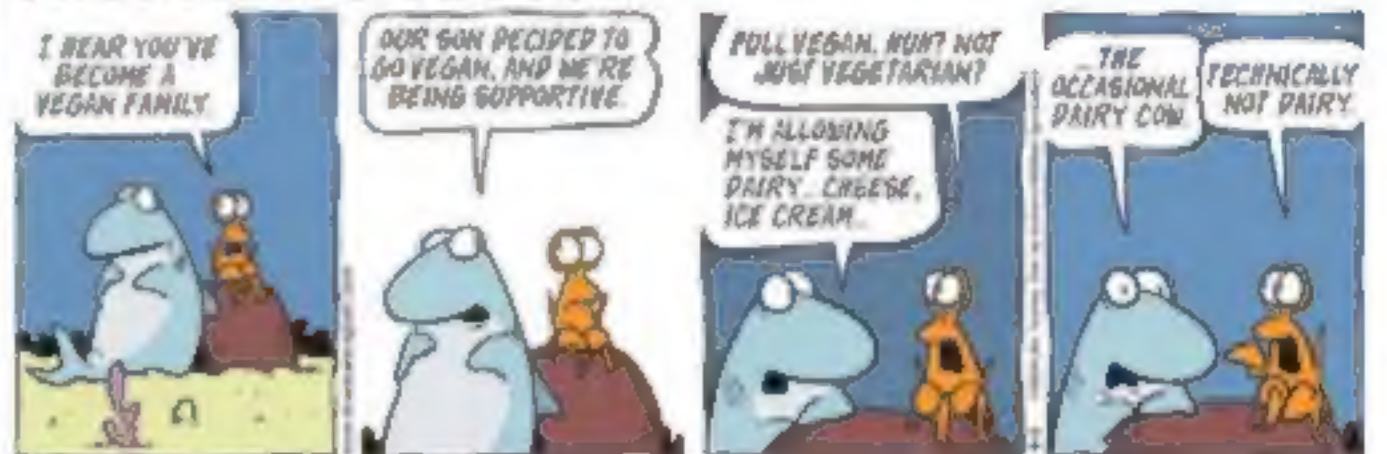
LOOSE PARTS



ADAM@HOME



SHERMAN'S LAGOON



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



LUANN



POOCH CAFE



CRANKSHAFT



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



LIO

